

SELF-RELIANCE THROUGH MUTUAL HELP

TCDC

TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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UNDP/ESCAP REGIONAL MEETING ON TECHNICAL
CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Bangkok, 25 Febuary-2 March 1976

Conclusions and recommendations

and

Extracts from statements

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
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CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	(i)
Conclusions and recommendations	1
Statements by	
Executive Secretary, ESCAP	5
Deputy Administrator, UNDP	6
Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCAP	12
Deputy Assistant Administrator, UNDP	15
Executive Secretary, Regional TCDC Meetings	16
Co-ordinator, TCDC	17
Chief, Programme and Co-ordination Office, ESCAP	18
Statements by representatives of countries	
Argentina	21
Australia	21
Bangladesh	21
Gilbert Islands	23
India	26
Indonesia	29
Israel	31
Japan	31
Korea	31
Laos	32
Mongolia	33
Nepal	34
Netherlands	34
Papua New Guinea	35
Philippines	36
Sri Lanka	37
Thailand	39
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	41
United Kingdom	43
United States of America	44
Yugoslavia	49
Statements by representatives of international organizations and institutes	
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	53
U.N. Office of Technical Co-operation (OTC)	55
International Labour Organisation (ILO)	59
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	60
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	61
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)	62
World Health Organization (WHO)	66
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)	67
Asian Development Institute (ADI)	69
United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)	70
List of participants	71

INTRODUCTION

The Regional Meeting on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries was held in Bangkok from 25 February to 2 March 1976. Convened jointly by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), it was the first in a series of regional meetings planned in preparation for a world conference, to be held in Argentina in 1977. The meeting unanimously elected Mr. Xujati Promoolpol, Director-General of Thailand's Department of Technical and Economic Co-operation, as Chairman with Mr. Supriardjo Gondoprijono (Indonesia) and Mr. Ashraf-Uz-Zaman (Bangladesh) as Vice-Chairmen and Mr. M.R. Natarajan (India) as Rapporteur.

This booklet contains the conclusions and recommendations and relevant extracts from the statements made at the meeting.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

UNDP/ESCAP REGIONAL MEETING ON TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Significance of technical co-operation among developing countries

1. Technical co-operation among developing countries should form an integral part of the total development effort and also give it a new dimension. It is also an integral part of their mutual co-operation for development, and individual and collective self-reliance. Co-operation among developing countries has continued to receive increasing priority attention in several declarations and resolutions adopted by various United Nations bodies in recent years, and has been duly reflected in the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade. The sharing of capacities, knowledge and experience among developing countries through various forms of mutual co-operation, including technical co-operation, is essential to the creation of the New International Economic Order called for by the sixth special session of the General Assembly, and has been assigned a significant place in the decisions of the seventh special session of the General Assembly. The need to promote self-reliance of the developing countries of the region was also recognized by ESCAP in its Colombo Declaration [resolution 140 (XXX)] and reaffirmed in the New Delhi Declaration [resolution 154 (XXXI)]. The New Delhi Declaration also urged the maximum utilization of regional skills, capabilities and expertise in the activities of the Commission, particularly in the implementation of the integrated programme of work. These declarations and resolutions have endorsed and underlined the importance of the international community fully supporting and extending financial and technical assistance to developing countries in their initiatives to strengthen and enlarge their mutual co-operation at subregional, regional, interregional and global levels. These resolutions and declarations are yet to be fully translated into practice, for which purpose urgent action should be taken.

Scope of technical co-operation among developing countries

2. Technical co-operation among developing countries has to be viewed as an effort to enhance the total availability of assistance, including the existing and potential technical assistance from developed to developing countries. In its traditional form, it includes the provision and utilization by developing countries of their know-how and expertise, consultancy services, training facilities, equipment and supplies. However, it goes beyond a mere exchange of that which already exists and involves pooling of resources and efforts by developing countries to find solutions to their specific common problems. It also includes programmes and projects to establish and strengthen the organizational infrastructure and substantive capacities of developing countries for promoting mutual co-operation among themselves.

Characteristics of technical co-operation among developing countries

3. In the implementation of technical co-operation among developing countries, the traditional distinction between donor and recipient has no place, since all developing countries participating in this endeavour should contribute to and benefit from it on the basis of reciprocity. The concept of technical co-operation among developing countries would have to be as broad and flexible as possible, and should rely increasingly on innovative approaches, methods and techniques better adapted to local needs, and at the same time, utilize existing forms.

Technical co-operation among developing countries in the regional context

4. The existing and potential capabilities of developing countries in the region for mutually responding to the technical co-operation needs are considerable. The skills, expertise and experience

available within the developing countries of the region are significant and have immediate relevance to their developmental needs and requirements. While the existing bilateral and multilateral technical co-operation between developing member countries of ESCAP is considerable, the capacities, requirements and scope of furthering such co-operation are immense.

5. However, there is a general lack of knowledge and awareness regarding these capabilities, and their relevance to the requirements of development. Further, attitudinal barriers to benefiting from the services and products of each other continue to persist among the developing countries. It is, therefore, important to improve the knowledge of, and confidence in, the existing and potential capabilities of the developing countries of the region.

6. Financial constraints are also a factor which hamper promotion of TCDC.

Least developed countries

7. In the promotion and implementation of programmes and projects of technical co-operation among developing countries, special attention should be given to the needs and capacities of the least developed countries. Active efforts should be made to create such capacities in these countries in order to establish a genuine basis for TCDC.

* * *

8. Technical co-operation among developing countries should not in any way subtract or lead to subtracting from existing technical assistance but, on the contrary, may well constitute a priority objective for supplementary financial flows from the developed countries to developing countries engaged in technical co-operation with each other. Consequently, the developing countries of the region should endeavour to further technical co-operation among themselves and with developing countries in other regions, on a continuing basis under both the bilateral and the multilateral framework. In recognition of these essential facts, the following measures are agreed upon by the meeting.

Strategy for Promoting Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries

Mechanisms to promote technical co-operation among developing countries

9. Where necessary, initiatives are required to be taken at national, subregional, regional and global levels to establish and strengthen mechanisms for fuller identification and utilization of the existing and potential capacities of developing countries for technical co-operation, and particularly for undertaking endeavours to initiate and sustain co-operative efforts designed to solve specific common problems.

Selected problem-solving TCDC activities

10. Some of the problems of particular concern to the developing countries of the region and uniquely amenable to solutions through technical co-operation among developing countries are (i) the need to develop appropriate technologies; (ii) increased agricultural production and food security, development of human resources, and development of commonly shared natural resources; (iii) development of cheaper sources of energy and of technologies designed to reduce energy requirements; and (iv) methods for solving certain common socio-economic problems such as eradication of poverty, mass participation in development, ensuring the full and equal participation of women and youth, development of outlying and depressed regions, and extension of low-cost public services, including maternity and child health, to the masses on the widest possible basis to ensure growth with social justice.

Institutions designed to serve common needs

11. Institutional arrangements are one of the important means to serve the common interests of the countries of the region. Every effort should, therefore, be made to make the existing institutional arrangements self-reliant, upgrade their levels of excellence, avoid duplication and adapt them to the changing situation and development needs of the developing countries of the region. Twinning arrangements, consortia and joint programming between selected institutions of the region should be encouraged. For meeting the

further institutional requirements to serve common needs, the highest priority should be accorded to the selection of national and regional institutions and developing them further.

Technical co-operation with developing countries in other regions

12. Technical co-operation among developing countries in the region should be seen as an integral part of co-operation among developing countries as a whole and for that matter of technical co-operation among developed and developing countries. In addition to its scope in areas for regional co-operation mentioned above, TCDC at the interregional level is also suitable in (i) defining the common position of developing countries on major issues of development co-operation and undertaking research and analysis for this purpose; (ii) exchange of experience with regard to policies which developing countries adopt towards transnational corporations; (iii) best possible arrangements on the basis of experience of different groups of developing countries for seeking transfer of technology on most favourable terms and conditions; (iv) exchange of experience with regard to the most effective approaches and modalities for promoting regional and subregional development co-operation and integration, initiating and setting into motion payments arrangements and dealing with specific problems that may arise in the implementation of such schemes; (v) activities designed to enable the developing countries to claim a greater share in the transport, marketing and retail prices of primary commodities exported by developing countries; (vi) institutional arrangements to provide a framework for trilateral co-operation among developing countries, that is, co-operation that combines the financial resources of some developing countries with the technical skills of some others and the market potential or supply potential of still others among the developing countries; and (vii) assistance to the least developed countries for their development.

Financing of TCDC

13. The developing countries should endeavour to undertake specific measures for increasing the existing quantum of mutual assistance through bilateral and multilateral channels. The financing of technical co-operation among developing countries has to be provided primarily by these countries themselves through budgetary allocations and contributions, where possible, to such common funds or programmes as may exist or be created, with appropriate assistance from multilateral organizations. In addition, the following method of financing should be given special consideration:

(a) Third-country financing, particularly by developed countries, which has so far mostly remained confined to the traditional forms of technical co-operation among developing countries, i.e. exchange of fellows, trainees and provision of expertise, should be extended, where possible, to cover other forms of technical co-operation among developing countries, particularly innovative activities undertaken by a group of developing countries to solve specific common problems.

(b) Wherever possible, developing countries should undertake financial measures for technical co-operation, including third-country financing among themselves on a longer-term, continuing and expanding basis.

(c) In cases where capital assistance component of aid cannot be untied, consideration should be given to untying all or a portion of its technical assistance component.

(d) Development banks in all regions should give consideration to funding within the framework of technical assistance projects that are specially supportive to the aims and purposes of technical co-operation among developing countries.

(e) All funds established or being created should be fully familiarized with TCDC and encouraged to support its aims and purposes.

(f) An advanced stage of financing technical co-operation among developing countries at the national level could eventually result in the creation of a national fund out of both budgetary and non-budgetary resources, providing assistance not only in the form of grants, but also credits to

national institutions, firms and consultancy services participating in TCDC activities.

(g) Where possible, the developed countries should be sympathetic to those countries seriously affected by balance of payments problems in order that the latter would be in a better financial position to support TCDC.

Planning of TCDC

14. Wherever feasible, developing countries should undertake a comprehensive identification of TCDC needs and requirements as an integral part of their national development plans and closely related to their broader socio-economic objectives. At a subsequent stage, when more adequate information becomes available, such forecasting of TCDC needs and requirements should be related to those of the other developing countries.

Need to overcome attitudinal barriers

15. The developing countries should make every effort to overcome the existing attitudinal barriers to the promotion of TCDC. The establishment and operation of effective and adequate information systems, bringing scientists, technologists, industrialists and institutions of developing countries together in an organized manner to familiarize themselves with the respective capacities and needs in the specific fields, the establishment of standards, norms and criteria to assess and evaluate expertise and services provided as part of TCDC, and appropriate actions at the national level should go a long way towards the removal of the existing attitudinal barriers. UNDP and multilateral organizations, including ESCAP, should play an important role in promoting these measures at the subregional, regional, interregional and global levels. More specifically, such organizations should make greater use of capacities available in developing countries among others, by amending, if necessary, procedures concerning recruitment of experts and procurement of equipment for this purpose. The demonstration effect of such a measure would create the necessary confidence, and lead to greater use of such capacities in the future.

Role of international organizations including ESCAP

16. UNDP and other international organizations, including ESCAP, should

(a) Act as a catalyst for enhancing the quality and quantum of TCDC in the region, particularly by assisting the developing countries to match their requirements and capacities on a continuing basis;

(b) Give special attention on a continuing basis to the formulation and implementation of activities to promote technical co-operation among developing countries in the region;

(c) Assist in the development and strengthening of administrative and organizational infrastructures at the national level, where required, to promote technical co-operation among developing countries in the region;

(d) Increasingly promote subcontracting and other arrangements, and utilize experts, consultancy services and equipment from developing countries in the region in implementing development projects and activities;

(e) Intensify programmes for training and acquisition of skills to improve the capacities and capabilities of the developing countries in the region to assist each other;

(f) Formulate activities of an innovative nature designed to serve specific ommon needs of the countries of the region;

(g) Strengthen the collection and dissemination of information regarding capacities and requirements of the developing countries in the region in regard to technical co-operation among themselves;

(h) Secure an increasing emphasis on the promotion of TCDC in the formulation and implementation of their programme of work and monitor and evaluate the implementation of such programmes with a view to ensuring and enhancing their quality and effectiveness.

These are also applicable to the work of international organizations at all other levels - interregional and global.

17. ESCAP in particular has an important role in the co-ordination at the regional level of TCDC on a continuing basis, and in this connexion: (i) the legislative bodies of ESCAP should initiate and review the action taken to strengthen technical co-operation among developing countries in their respective disciplines on a continuing basis; (ii) to the maximum extent possible and practicable, developing member countries of ESCAP should endeavour to support the activities of the Commission, particularly those which have a direct bearing on the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries. Developing countries should endeavour to identify activities in the programme of work of ESCAP which could be assisted by them, including possible contributions in local currencies. The developing countries of the region should consider, through mutual efforts and the assistance of ESCAP, ways and means of securing beneficial utilization of extra-budgetary assistance in local currencies to implement the programme of work of ESCAP; (iii) the developing countries of the region should, in particular, endeavour to increase the effectiveness of the fellowship programme of ESCAP by offering and financing particularly the local cost of training facilities in their countries for personnel of other developing countries.

Role of developed countries

18. The developed countries should support these initiatives and measures in subregional, regional, interregional and global co-operation of developing countries through the extension of financial and technical assistance by more effective action through whatever measures they are able to undertake, and should seek to provide supplementary financial assistance, including triangular arrangements between the developing countries, ESCAP and themselves. Further, it was felt that wherever appropriate, such assistance should have a maximum component in grant form.

Collective self-reliance

19. Technical co-operation among developing countries, properly formulated and executed, can be a principal instrument for achieving collective self-reliance as envisaged by the General Assembly and the Commission, can pave the way for wider co-operation, can enhance the effectiveness of international co-operation for development, and can facilitate the most efficient and economical use of the limited resources available for development.

STATEMENT BY MR. J.B.P. MARAMIS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

It is gratifying and encouraging to note that this first meeting on TCDC at the regional level has been able to make such a significant contribution to the Global Conference to be held in 1977, and also provide a sound and constructive basis for discussions on the subject at the forthcoming session of the Commission. It is even more gratifying to note that through a frank exchange of views in a spirit of cordiality, and through your conscientious efforts till late hours in the evening, you have succeeded in giving substance to the concept of technical co-operation among developing countries, and to make it an effective instrument for promoting regional development. As has been recognized in your report, much more needs to be done at all levels: national, subregional, regional and global to intensify technical co-operation not only in the sharing of expertise and experience, but also in the pooling of common efforts and resources to secure objectives for mutual benefit.

There may be some misgivings regarding a sense of cautious restraint in some of the recommendations made by this meeting. Such misgivings are, however, unwarranted. To my mind, this first

intergovernmental meeting at the regional level to deal with the important subject of technical co-operation constitutes a land-mark in our endeavours to promote development and self-reliance among the developing countries. The recommendations and conclusions of this meeting are of far-reaching significance, as will be increasingly realized in the years to come. Above all, through this meeting, I believe we would have succeeded, in large measure, in incorporating this concept in our vocabulary, and in inculcating the practice of technical co-operation in our regular activities. On the conceptual side, this meeting has proved to be an extremely rich experience, and we have benefitted not only through the exchange of ideas between the countries in the region, but also with our colleagues from outside the region. The contributions made by the specialized agencies and other organizations to this meeting are also very much appreciated. On the operational side, several important recommendations have been made, many of which have a direct bearing on the work of the Commission. From every aspect, therefore, I am sure that all of us can view these deliberations as being of crucial importance in our efforts to promote economic and social development.

I believe it has been already stated that TCDC cannot be approached on an *ad hoc* or piece-meal basis; nor is it a once and for all exercise. It is an integral component of development. I, therefore, regard this meeting as an important stepping-stone in our attempts to intensify such co-operation on a continuing basis. In the regional context, the next stage would be the forthcoming session of the Commission, which I am confident on the basis of your deliberations, would provide an added impetus to our work on the directions outlined at this meeting. The conclusions of this meeting would be an essential link in the regional contribution to the implementation of the decisions of the Seventh Special Session of the General Assembly and also represent an extremely significant move forward in securing the mandate of the Commission at its thirtieth and thirty-first sessions as reflected in the Colombo and New Delhi Declarations.

TCDC: AN ASIAN PERSPECTIVE
BY MR. I.G. PATEL, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, UNDP

This is the first of several meetings that the UNDP has been asked to organize at an intergovernmental level to promote TCDC on a regional as well as an interregional and global level; and it is in the fitness of things that this first meeting should be concerned with promoting technical co-operation in the ESCAP region. It was in this region and through what came to be known as the Colombo Plan that technical co-operation received its first impetus; and the Colombo Plan right from the outset emphasized the principle that each developing member should be encouraged to be a donor as well as a recipient as it has generally something it can contribute to assist other countries similarly placed. It is this central principle of mutual help that was to some extent embodied in the UNDP charter and is now sought to be promoted through what has come to be known as TCDC - or technical co-operation among developing countries.

There is, I am afraid, another and less flattering reason. Despite our long historical links and the urgent and difficult nature of our economic problems, Asia remains the least structured among the regional entities around the world to-day. Happily, some of the clouds of suspicion, mistrust and division are getting dispersed from the Asian scene. But we still do not have an Organization of Asian Unity or the institutional frameworks devoted exclusively to promoting co-operation in concrete spheres such as exist in Latin America. Nor do we have anything like the cultural and emotional bonds that unite Latin America or the Arab World. It is best, therefore, to recognize that co-operation in Asia, whether in technical or scientific or any other sphere, is a particularly difficult enterprise. But by the same token, there is at least the possibility that technical and scientific co-operation may pay much higher dividends in Asia than anywhere else. It may be the best means of forg-

ing links of unity and co-operation in other spheres. At any rate, there is no doubt that technical co-operation in Asia can take a more sophisticated form than in many other regions.

And this brings me to the main question I wish to pose before you: how exactly should we conceive of technical co-operation in the Asian context? Is it primarily a question of exchange of experts and fellowships, of consultants and experience in general? Or, is it an endeavour primarily to pool resources to find an answer to our common problems and needs? Is the essence of technical co-operation a mere exchange of that which already exists or does it lie in a common endeavour to create that which is commonly needed but does not yet exist? Again, is technical co-operation primarily a prerequisite of economic co-operation or has it a separate rationale of its own? How are we to reconcile technical co-operation in Asia, whether at a regional or subregional level, with such co-operation among developing countries as a whole and indeed with technical co-operation at a global multilateral level such as that carried on through the UNDP? And finally, since much of the technical co-operation in the Asian region takes place - and will continue to take place - on a bilateral basis, is there not need at least to ask how such co-operation can avoid any undesirable features?

It is not my intention to suggest that a significant part of technical co-operation does not or should not consist of an exchange of experts or consultants or fellowships or of seminars and visits to compare experience. From this point of view, the emphasis on better information, on appropriate legal and institutional framework, on incentives and on overcoming attitudinal barriers is certainly well taken. But I venture to think that too much preoccupation with this "market sharing" or exchange aspect of technical co-operation is likely to divert attention from the far more urgent and difficult task of mustering the political will to initiate and sustain truly co-operative efforts to solve specific common problems and to build institutions to serve common needs.

Certain problems are obviously of much greater concern to most Asian countries than to others, e.g., the need to develop appropriate technologies, eradication of certain diseases, problems of corrosion in tropical conditions, development of cheaper sources of energy or intensive cultivation based on inorganic fertilizers. The list can obviously be multiplied. But it is clear that it is co-operation in finding answer to these common problems which will really yield the higher dividends in terms of political unity; and even in strictly economic terms, it is co-operation to create things anew which is most urgently needed.

When it comes to creating institutions to serve common needs, our experience in Asia needs careful assessment. Perhaps a commitment by member countries to support the regional institutions already created and to raise them to the level where they can justify the term, "centres of excellence", should be the first item on the agenda of technical co-operation in the ESCAP region. There is also need for the enunciation of a clear policy towards the establishment of new institutions in the future. Perhaps the only satisfactory answer to creating regional institutions is to develop already well-established national institutes to serve this purpose. But even this would require some agreement on which national institutions to strengthen and on how to ensure that they acquire and maintain a truly regional culture; and it is precisely in finding answers to such problems that the challenge of technical co-operation in our region really lies.

There is yet another aspect of problem-solving co-operation that tends to get neglected. I am referring to co-operation that can lead to a better formulation of economic policies or of development strategies generally or in particular sectors. No two country situations are exactly alike; and there is much that cannot be separated from its specific cultural or institutional background. A free and frank discussion or unbiased research on sensitive socio-economic issues is also by no means easy to achieve. And yet, there cannot be any doubt that an important aspect of technical co-operation lies in this direction of searching for better policies to deal with intricate problems such as the rapid growth of cities, mass participation in development including that of women, or development of disadvantaged regions within a country.

I consider that technical co-operation has a sphere of its own independent of any immediate possibility of economic co-operation. At the same time, the two can only thrive together if we are thinking of positive problem-solving activities. The pre-investment role of technical co-operation is now well recognized. What is perhaps not easily appreciated is that when it comes to the joint exploitation or control of major common resources such as rivers, technical studies that command the confidence of all the partners concerned are more than a mere statement of costs and benefits. Step by step, they can also facilitate negotiations which proceed from less and less ignorance, and, therefore, less and less suspicion, and thus firm up the very will to co-operate. Here in Asia we have so many opportunities for massive co-operation in the exploitation of common resources which could be seized despite all seeming obstacles if only we have the courage to take the first initial steps of technical co-operation.

For the Asian region, which cannot aspire to material satisfaction on the same scale as other regions in the foreseeable future and which can still lay claim to robust social and cultural traditions that have withstood the onslaught of Western uniformity better than in other regions, there is also a particular point in asking: what is technical and scientific or even economic co-operation really for? Is our aim merely to sustain some monotonic concept of growth or to attain a desirable quality of life? And if we are basically concerned with the quality of life, it goes without saying that cultural co-operation should have a high place in the list of our priorities. Indeed, it can often be made an integral part of technical or scientific and economic co-operation.

So much for the content of technical co-operation in Asia. But how do we reconcile this co-operation with that in the larger context of developing countries as a whole or indeed in the global context? To put it more generally, what should be the respective spheres of subregional, regional, interregional and global co-operation?

I would propound a simple rule: when it comes to what I called sometime back "market sharing" or exchange of that which exists, the simple rule should be: the wider the basis for co-operation, the better for all concerned. I think this proposition will be readily accepted in defence of regional versus subregional co-operation, or interregional versus regional co-operation as long as the universe of our discourse is the developing world.

But should not experts and subcontractors and even equipment from developing countries receive some preference when it comes to technical co-operation in general? At first sight, the proposition seems reasonable, and there appears to be some sanction for it in the theoretical infant industry argument and in the practical endorsement of the General System of Preferences.

But despite the plausible appeal of the arguments in favour of preferences in technical co-operation, I would urge that you consider them with great care and caution. It is not an accident that under the General System of Preferences, a developing country does not enjoy any preferences in another developing country - but only in developed countries vis-a-vis other developed countries. No discussion on preferences is complete without asking at whose expense? Clearly, all those countries which wish to give tax incentives or other forms of concessions for promoting TCDC should be encouraged to do so. But a preference at the expense of another equally poor country cannot be easily justified, and we cannot escape from this dilemma by saying that somehow the resources for the preference would be found from some general pool. In the ultimate analysis, what is so charged to the general pool is also at the expense of developing countries in general.

I cannot help feeling also that the talk of preferences in technical co-operation diverts attention from a number of practices which deny even equality to the developing countries in technical co-operation. Quite apart from the very real problems of ignorance and prejudice - euphemistically called attitudinal barriers - there is the fact that even in multilateral agencies, the staffing pattern is expected to follow the pattern of contributions. The initial bias then naturally gets carried over into recruitment of experts and the like.

Some of the well-meaning efforts to help multilateral agencies, such as the provision of volunteers, associate experts, etc. have also a similar effect. The fact that an expert from a developing country, by virtue of his more relevant experience, is better qualified *per se* than his counterpart from a developed country with comparable academic and other distinctions is seldom, if ever, recognised. And, when it comes to bilateral rechnical assistance, the preference for the richer countries is complete that one is almost tempted to say that equality - and not preference - demands that if bilateral assistance is to be tied to inputs from the richer countries, let multilateral assistance be tied to inputs from the poorer countries! For my part, however, I would like to urge that for the present we take our stand on equality and nothing else when it comes to the "market-sharing" or exchange aspects of technical co-operation.

But when we talk of creating things anew, of co-operation in creating that which does not exist, there can be no rule about the horizons of such co-operation. Each purpose, each potential, will define its own horizon - whether interregional, regional, sub-regional or just plain country A + country B. About all one can say in general about where the dividing line should be is that, please do not sell the future short, please do not sell the larger identity short. It is so convenient to say: "yes, someday, we can co-operate with all those other people. But for the present, let us stop here among the like-minded. But who then is responsible for creating like-mindedness"?

At the interregional level, i.e. among the developing countries as a whole, the most appropriate sphere for technical co-operation may well lie, in forging common policies vis-à-vis the rest of the world. Perhaps it would be inappropriate in the context of co-operation to speak of bargaining power or a united front. But quite clearly, there are areas of common interest such as policies towards transnational corporations, democratisation of international institutions, improved terms of trade and generally a better deal for the poor countries where common research, common policies and unity in negotiations are obviously desirable. If the industrially advanced countries need an organization like the OECD or the DAC, the developing world needs even more a counterpart of its own. And hopefully, such an organization of the Third World could also provide a firmer basis for trilateral co-operation among the developing countries, i.e., co-operation which combines the financial resources of some of the OPEC members with the technical skills of some others and the market potential or supply potential of still others among the developing world.

One of the basic needs of most developing countries continues to be the need to share the technical knowledge that exists today only in the industrially advanced countries. But there is an unwritten law that whereas most countries are willing to share freely technology or know-how relating to agriculture or public health or education, industrial technology is available only in a package of private foreign investment or expensive licensing arrangements. Since we all accept the need for a new international economic order and for new ways of reducing inequalities among nations, is it too much to hope that at least the growing sector of socialist or public-sector industry around the world will have a more open and generous attitude towards sharing industrial technology? I should think that since socialized industries are not uncommon in the developing world, this would be the most fruitful area for technical co-operation at the general interregional level.

As far as global multilateral co-operation such as that organized through the UNDP is concerned, it is now recognized that there is no conflict or contradiction between that and TCDC. Indeed, as all the UN resolutions on TCDC emphasize, TCDC is only a part - although a vital part - of the larger universal effort at technical co-operation. The question is often asked: what can the UNDP do to promote TCDC? The UNDP can certainly do a great deal to collate and disseminate information, to eliminate bias within itself, to identify areas of positive co-operation among developing countries and to undertake such tasks as are entrusted to it

by the combined will of the participating countries. But I would, if I may, like to turn the question around: how do we wish to promote technical co-operation among ourselves by using properly our common instrument, viz., the UNDP?

Quite clearly, the mechanism of the UNDP regional projects is not the only one available for this purpose. It is gratifying that countries are beginning to realize that their national IPFs can also be usefully deployed for promoting TCDC. At the recent Governing Council meeting, the delegate from Canada went as far as to suggest that a partial or complete surrender of its IPF by a developing country would be a good mechanism for promoting TCDC. But the point I wish to make is that the resources of the UNDP are your own. If you use them for one thing, they are not available for something else. I am often intrigued that so many people seem to think that it is somehow better to finance an activity from the Programme Reserve rather than from country-or-inter-country IPFs. But the Programme Reserve also is financed from the same kitty and the more burden we put on it, the less will remain for distribution as IPFs.

One advantage of TCDC in the UNDP context is that it can reduce the cost of technical co-operation without impairing its quality. But let us remember that there is no automatic reason why TCDC should reduce costs or improve quality. Clearly, we cannot accept any rule which implies different standards of payment internationally for experts drawn from different countries. The only way, therefore, of saving on costs through TCDC is by taking advantage of the so-called New Dimensions that our Governing Council and indeed the General Assembly have endorsed. I am referring to arrangements such as twinning of institutions and sub-contracts undertaken by universities, Government departments or public utilities in developing countries. I earnestly hope that Governments of the region would give careful thought to the several new opportunities that are now open to them not only to economize on the cost of technical co-operation but to increase its qualitative contribution to self-reliance as well.

Since much of technical co-operation in the region will continue to be on a bilateral basis, are there not certain norms that must be consciously followed to avoid the pitfalls of all bilateral assistance?

A few obsservations perhaps deserve mention. While technical co-operation may cost much less than capital assistance, there should be no illusion that a country can extend technical co-operation without some sacrifice or transfer of real resources. Indeed, since much of the activity associated with technical co-operation takes place abroad, there should be a willingness to give a substantial part of technical assistance in a convertible form. This has to be done at least to the extent necessary to cover the cost of maintaining abroad the experts and other services provided by the country of origin. The recipient country can also share in such costs. But the fact remains that a part of the cost of technical co-operation is likely to be in convertible currency. In the context of the developing world perhaps it is not necessary to caution that technical co-operation should be strictly for achieving social and economic or cultural ends and not as an instrument of political influence. But perhaps it is not irrelevant to note that the temptation to derive unilateral advantages from technical co-operation should be eschewed.

It is well to remember that most of the principles underlying co-operation through UNDP such as assistance on a longer-term basis to promote a coordinated set of objectives, respect for national sovereignty and for the priorities of the recipient countries themselves, emphasis on achieving specified objectives in a manner which promotes self-reliance, etc. are of equal validity in bilateral technical co-operation among developing countries. All that we want the industrially advanced countries to do has at least some relevance to how we should behave when it comes to co-operation among ourselves. Indeed, one of the strongest justification in my mind for TCDC is that by getting our own feet wet so to speak, we are likely to have a greater sense of proportion and perspective when we talk of co-operation among the nations of the world in general.

CONCLUDING STATEMENT BY MR. I.G. PATEL

Much was expected of this meeting - as a pace setter for the other regional meetings; as an important phase in the preparation of the global meeting; and as a forum for giving fresh impetus to TCDC in the ESCAP region. Since this is an intergovernmental meeting, it is really for distinguished delegates to assess its results. But for my part, I am happy to say that in my judgement this meeting has largely served the purpose that our Governing Council had in mind.

The most important purpose served by this meeting is the opportunity that it has afforded to the developing countries of ESCAP to exchange their experience in TCDC, profit from each other's experience and derive impetus for mounting new efforts. For the first time, in this meeting, the debate has been brought down to the practical level and has taken place among those who were involved in the day-to-day operations of TCDC. For the first time, the general concepts and approaches have been tested against the yardstick of practical possibilities. The practitioners of TCDC at the national level have indicated why certain approaches, though laudable as long term objectives, cannot be applied in the short run. For example, they have opted in favour of flexibility with regard to legal and administrative arrangements and planning of TCDC. At the same time, they have expressed their willingness to pursue the long-term objectives of better planning and co-ordination and more flexible arrangements for funding TCDC. The impetus provided by this meeting to undertake new co-operative ventures to solve common problems and to review policies and procedures at the national level in order to reorient them to the realization of the broader and larger objectives of TCDC is, to my mind, the most important achievement of this meeting.

In my opening statement, I had referred to the "regional perspective" for TCDC in the ESCAP region. I am glad that this "regional perspective" received its due attention and has been given a prominent place in its "Conclusions and Recommendations". Here, I am referring particularly to paragraph 10 of the Conclusions and Recommendations in which the meeting has identified problems of particular concern to the developing countries of the region and uniquely amenable to solutions through TCDC. I sincerely hope that this will provide a framework for new initiatives and activities by governments at the bilateral and multilateral level.

Another important contribution of this meeting is the identification of areas particularly suitable for TCDC at the interregional and global level. I am sure, the areas outlined in paragraph 12 of the Conclusions and Recommendations would provide a valuable basis for further discussion and elaboration in the other regional meetings and in the forthcoming global conference on TCDC.

One of the most encouraging features has been the contributions of the inter-governmental organizations. The statements made by the representatives of these inter-governmental organizations have shown that the organizations of the U.N. system are capable of being imbued with the new spirit that is implicit in TCDC. It is significant that this new spirit should come out so forcefully in the context of the regional activities of these organizations and that decentralization at the regional and national level should have played such an important part in it.

It is mainly through ESCAP that the developing member governments would pursue the Conclusions and Recommendations that have emerged from this meeting. Many of these conclusions and recommendations will be reflected in the work programme of ESCAP and strengthen the TCDC components of this work programme. Even for the promotion of TCDC on a bilateral basis, developing member governments would look forward to ESCAP to assist in bridging the information gap, matching requirements with capabilities and to provide the forum for further exchange of experience.

We have always attached great importance to the contribution that this meeting should make to the activities of ESCAP and to the initiatives and efforts the developing countries of the region can mount through the assistance of ESCAP. We are gratified with the results achieved by this meeting in this regard. We sincerely hope that the report of this meeting, particularly the Conclusions and Recommendations would receive the attention at high political level in the forthcoming annual session of the Commission.

STATEMENT BY MR. PRINCY H. SIRIWARDENE, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

It is indeed a happy coincidence that the regional consultations are being initiated in this region where the quality and scope of technical co-operation among developing countries is considerable

One of the major points of emphasis of ESCAP in recent years has been the promotion of self-reliance of developing countries of the region through mutual help and international support. The New Delhi Declaration adopted by the Commission at its thirty-first session last year recognized "the imperative need to intensify regional co-operation in all sectors of economic and social activity with the objective of promoting increasing self-reliance, individually and jointly, among the developing countries of the region." It recommended that developing countries increasingly utilize the technologies developed by them and suited to their needs through "genuine technological co-operation". It also urged the maximum utilization of regional skills, capabilities and expertise in the activities of the Commission. The recently concluded Seventh Special Session of the General Assembly has also emphasized the need for intensified co-operation among developing countries to promote self-reliant growth.

Technical co-operation among developing countries is an integral part of their accelerated progress towards self-reliance. While this meeting would be giving attention to the concept of technical co-operation among developing countries and to its definition, it is, in my view, even more important to give thought to definite and concrete measures at the bilateral and multilateral levels to promote such co-operation. The conceptual framework of technical co-operation has been discussed on several occasions in various forums. While there may continue to be difference of views regarding the subtleties and nuances of the concept, there is general agreement on the various components which constitute technical co-operation. Technical co-operation includes the provision and utilization by the developing countries of their know-how and expertise, consultancy services, training facilities, equipment and supplies. Such co-operation can be bilateral or multilateral, public or private and covers all sectors and all kinds of technical assistance activities, regardless of the source or type of financing. The concept has to be broad and flexible in order to provide for innovative approaches, while at the same time, fully utilizing existing forms of co-operation. Such co-operation necessarily differs from the traditional pattern of co-operation between the developed and the developing countries with the rigid categorization of donors and recipients. Technical co-operation among developing countries has to be based upon mutual benefit and reciprocity, and the full understanding of the fact that recipients will also be donors, now or as soon as capable.

The need for innovative approaches to technical co-operation among developing countries has been rightly stressed. In this field, the scope for devising new patterns of co-operative effort is immense. In more than one sense, the potential of traditional or existing forms of co-operation have run their course. There is need for bold and imaginative thinking on the various ways in which developing countries can intensify co-operation among themselves.

While there is no doubt that the substance of technical co-operation among developing countries can be further refined and made specific, it is also essential that we bear in mind the need to securing an understanding on a viable strategy for promoting such co-operation in the region. In the context of the existing definitions of technical co-operation among developing countries, it will be abundantly clear that the activities of ESCAP as well as other multilateral organizations at the regional level do in one way or another assist in promoting such co-operation. We in ESCAP have in recent years succeeded, in large measure, in formulating an integrated programme of work in the context of the mandate of the Commission at its thirtieth session in 1974. The programme of work includes activities in five priority areas identified by the Commission to include food and agriculture, energy, raw materials, transfer of appropriate technology, and external financial resources. An important instrument in promoting activities in all these sectors and in the other programmes of ESCAP is the promotion of sub-regional and regional co-operation which in the ultimate analysis implies, the intensification of technical co-operation among developing countries.

I would confine myself to a few illustrations from our priority programmes. In the important field of food and agriculture, for example, the several activities relating to the Asian Rice Trade Fund, coarse grains and pulses, post-harvest industrial technologies, development of agro industries, the regional centre for agricultural machinery, procurement and supply of agricultural requisites, and schemes for regional co-operation in chemical fertilizers and organic manures clearly emphasize technical co-operation among developing countries both in terms of inputs and outputs. The same applies to the activities of ESCAP relating to the development of non-conventional sources of energy, particularly bio-gas technology and utilization. In the vital sector of raw materials and development, the work being done in the field of commodity communities for coconut, pepper and rubber underlines the importance of technical co-operation among developing countries. In the field of development and transfer of appropriate technology, the work of ESCAP is geared to the intensification of such co-operation which would be further strengthened with the establishment of a regional centre for transfer of technology. Finally, in the sector of external financial resources, the concept of technical co-operation among developing countries is clearly manifest in the work relating to the Asian Trade Expansion Programme, Asian Clearing Union, Multilateral Trade Negotiations, multilateral export credit insurance scheme and the activities relating to trade promotion. In this sector, increasing attention is also being given to the operations of trans-national corporations, a subject which extends beyond the confines of this region, and carries a tremendous potential for interregional co-operation among the developing countries. Likewise, in the several regional projects such as the Mekong Committee and the Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources, as also in the activities of the regional institutes, there is a vigorous attempt being made to promote all forms of co-operation including technical co-operation among the developing countries of the region.

I wish in particular to draw your attention to an important initiative taken recently in the region to promote TCDC. In collaboration with UNIDO, ESCAP organized a regional Seminar to promote co-operation among the developing and the least-developed countries in the region in New Delhi. The main purpose of the Seminar was to identify, and elaborate specific programmes in industrial development to be promoted through co-operation among the developing countries. About fifty industrial projects covering a wide range from agro-based industries to food processing industries, engineering industries to small-scale industries were identified for the promotion of co-operation among the developing countries. Of these projects, some thirty are to be promoted through co-operation between least-developed and the developing countries, and the remaining to be implemented by ESCAP and UNIDO on a pilot or demonstration basis. The co-operative arrangements include exchange of experiences, study tours, provision of technical expertise, training of personnel and the establishment of joint ventures. Financing is on a

tripartite basis in which the developing countries provide and receive assistance with further support given by international organizations. During the discussions, the need for a network of information in the field of industrialization and the importance of sub-contracting as a means for furthering regional co-operation were emphasized. The Seminar has, indeed, provided a very useful mechanism for furthering technical co-operation, particularly in the industrialization of the least-developed countries.

Our deliberations would necessarily have to take into account the several activities both at the bilateral and multilateral levels which are being undertaken to promote technical co-operation among developing countries. It is clear that technical co-operation among developing countries cannot be treated on an *ad hoc* and piece-meal basis, and regarded as a once and for all exercise. The capacity and capability has to be generated to sustain the momentum of technical co-operation on a long-term basis. In other words, attention should be given to such activities at all levels which have the potential of a multiplier effect in the intensification of such co-operation on a continuing basis.

While existing and potential capabilities of the developing countries in the region for mutually responding to technical co-operation needs are considerable, and the availability of skills, expertise and experience in these countries are substantial and have immediate relevance to their development needs and requirements, there is a severe lack of knowledge and awareness regarding these capabilities. Further, attitudinal barriers which prevent the utilization of these capabilities also continue to persist. It is, therefore, imperative to improve the knowledge of, and confidence in, the existing and potential capabilities of the developing countries of the region. We have in ESCAP made a very modest beginning in preparing the first drafts of handbooks on training facilities and consultancy services available in the region. These handbooks would have to be revised to make the information contained in them, more comprehensive. Simultaneously, in consultation with the member governments, it would also be necessary to evaluate the quality of these services. In its functioning as a clearing house for information in various sectors, ESCAP continues to assist in securing a better understanding of the requirements and capabilities of the developing countries. Attention is also being given to the possibility of designing an information system and clearing house for ESCAP as a whole to facilitate communication between member countries, and thereby, increase the confidence in each other's capacities.

This meeting has a major responsibility in assisting the countries to establish, and where necessary, strengthen the organizational structures and substantive capacities for promoting mutual co-operation among themselves. It is essential to have in administrations, at all levels, focal points for furthering technical co-operation among developing countries. It is also necessary to intensify efforts at the national, subregional and regional levels to develop and transfer indigenous technology, and to introduce techniques which are better adapted to local needs and requirements. It would also be necessary to give attention to the role of ESCAP and other multilateral organizations at the regional level as catalysts in enhancing the level and quality of technical co-operation among developing countries in the region. Much more can be done by organizations at the regional level including ESCAP in promoting sub-contracting and other arrangements, and increasingly utilizing experts, consultancy services and equipment from developing countries in the implementation of their activities.

There is need to give attention, on a continuing basis, to the formulation and implementation of activities to promote technical co-operation among developing countries in the region and to intensify programmes for training and acquisition of skills to improve the capacities and capabilities of these countries to assist each other. There is urgent need to strengthen the collection and dissemination of information on all matters relating to technical co-operation among developing countries.

It is may sincere belief that we have reached a stage in our development when much more can be done by the developing countries to promote

self-help and mutual co-operation. The developing countries could seriously consider the possibility of increasing their contribution to the activities of the Commission, particularly through allocations in local currencies. Thus, for example, the convening of a workshop in a developing country may require foreign exchange expenditure on travel, while other local costs could easily be met from non-convertible currencies to be expended in the host country. The initiatives taken by developing countries in this connexion could and should be adequately matched by financial support from the traditional donor countries. Through such forms of assistance, we would be able to secure two main objectives, namely, a more constructive partnership in development between the developing and the developed countries, and a much more active involvement of the developing countries in the process of regional development. Above all, the whole range of activities relating to technical co-operation among developing countries taken together would considerably help to secure the furtherance of self-reliance of the developing countries.

It is a fact well recognized that the primary responsibility for the development of the developing countries rests upon the developing countries themselves. It is equally well recognized that there is an urgent need for the developed countries to fully support the initiatives and measures of developing countries in mutual co-operation through the extension of financial and technical assistance and by also providing, wherever there is a need, financial assistance through tripartite arrangements. The entire exercise on technical co-operation among developing countries should be regarded as complementing the existing patterns of co-operation and assistance by the developed countries to the developing countries. Every unit expended in the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries should reinforce and enlarge the quantum of assistance being provided by the developed countries to the developing countries. I am confident that the deliberations at this meeting will provide a further impetus to the intensification of assistance by the developed countries to the efforts of the developing countries in a spirit of genuine partnership for development.

I believe this meeting will enable us to further identify specific possibilities for promoting technical co-operation among developing countries and indicate the scope for interregional co-operation in this field. Both the subjects, namely, technical co-operation among developing countries and interregional co-operation for development will be considered by the Commission as priority items at its thirty-second session in Bangkok.

I am confident that this meeting will greatly assist in strengthening the existing ties between the developing countries, and in utilizing their own capacities for promoting their self-reliance. I am equally confident that the outcome of this meeting would constitute an important regional contribution to the global meeting later to be convened by UNDP, and thereby, provide a vital link in the efforts of the United Nations system in the establishment of the New International Economic Order.

STATEMENT BY MR. CARLOS VEGEGA, DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, UNDP

Technical co-operation among developing countries, is neither a new concept nor a new practice in the Asia and Pacific region. As a matter of fact this region can be proud of being the first area in the world which had developed over the last 25 years an operating system aimed at promoting the economic development of the region, on the basis of mutual self-help. This unique programme without parallel in the rest of the world is the Colombo Plan.

I start by mentioning this Plan, not only as a tribute to this region, but also to emphasize that TCDC that started rather modestly without being identified and defined as much, is now a widespread and multifaceted activity.

I will focus on one activity on which the UNDP has been very active from its inception and that can serve as an infrastructure for increased TCDC: I refer to institution building. Institution

building at the national level has been one of the main endeavours of the UNDP and its predecessor organizations. As a result of the combination of national efforts with that of the international community, there is now in Asia, a group of institutions which have already reached a capacity that will justify making their services available, on a selective basis, to other developing countries. Some of these institutions already provide facilities for training nationals from other developing countries, provide research facilities for visiting researchers and make available the results of their own research to institutions in other countries. Much more and more systematic efforts can be made, but these institutions can provide the core around which a network of co-operation can be built. A TCDC component can be incorporated in those institutions whenever an extension or expansion of their activities is considered, whether with or without UNDP support.

The advantages of TCDC are generally not apparent. Even countries with balance of payments constraints can benefit by providing TCDC. The advantages to be derived by making available to other countries the facilities existing in national institutions are considerable, such as the increase in the capacity to provide services, the acquisition of new and valuable additional experience and the possibility of testing their capacity in a different environment.

The next step in the process of strengthening this process will be the twinning of institutions where two or more institutions in two or more developing countries can mutually help themselves by a systematic exchange of personnel, training facilities and the co-participation in certain projects. Twinning has to be much more than the provision of certain services from one organization to another, but a meshing of some of their programmes, so that co-operation works in both directions and both organizations benefit from the arrangement.

I emphasize the national institutions that either with their own present capacities, or after a moderate expansion or strengthening, can become useful instruments for promoting TCDC. I do so because here is where the greatest possibilities for expansion lie; but we cannot omit also the great constellation of regional institutions, some of which have received support from UNDP and could become important instruments for TCDC.

Much has been done and is being done to increase TCDC; however much remains to be done and in this regard I wish to bring to the attention of the participants the recommendations, made by the consultant, which are well founded, soundly conceived and imaginative, and most important, tailored to the needs and possibilities of this region.

Finally I want to make a reference to the UNDP financial situation. The scarcity of resources provides us both with a restraint and a challenge. A restraint because it is not possible for UNDP to entertain all of the possible requests for co-operation that might help promote TCDC, on the other hand it is a challenge because TCDC can provide a new opportunity that, if applied with energy and imagination, might help lift some of the constraints that the programme is now facing.

STATEMENT BY MR. EDUARDO ALBERTAL, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF REGIONAL TCDC MEETINGS, UNDP

I wish to express my appreciation for the many valuable and enlightening suggestions contained in the presentation of the participants and for the fact that the objectives of this meeting, as outlined in various resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Governing Council of the UNDP and other UN bodies, have been substantially achieved.

This meeting has deepened and improved the understanding of the potential for sharing development capacity among developing countries. Furthermore it has discussed problems and opportunities specific to the Asia and the Pacific region.

The global Conference on TCDC, which will be convened in Argentina under the auspices of

UNDP in 1977, will examine ways and means of promoting technical co-operation among developing countries, including the role of governments and of international organizations and institutional and financial arrangements required for promoting TCDC. One of the most important inputs for the discussions in the global conference are the conclusions and recommendations advanced by the four regional preparatory TCDC meetings, of which this Bangkok meeting is the first.

STATEMENT BY MR. D. DRAGIC, CO-ORDINATOR, TCDC, UNDP

As rightly pointed out by several speakers, further development of TCDC depends primarily upon the political will and genuine need of each and everyone of developing countries to promote and establish their mutual co-operation. In this context administrative and legal arrangements appear to be less important. However, they no doubt constitute an important vehicle for governments to properly exercise their will. On the other hand, the need for appropriate financial resources has been clearly established as one of the crucial problems of further development of TCDC.

I wish to emphasize the importance of programming technical co-operation in general and TCDC in particular. At present TCDC activities are performed on a case by case and a country to country basis as a response to direct requests from foreign governments or institutions. In order to achieve a comprehensive and long term oriented TCDC, certain degree of programming at the national level is obviously necessary. Conscious effort should be made for interweaving TCDC capacities and requirements into national development planning, and country's economic and technical assistance requirements to similar programme of other developing countries from the subregion, region or other regions. Country programming exercise for UNDP-assisted projects can be used to a certain extent as a vehicle for more comprehensive and long term oriented TCDC programming.

The lack of financial resources for TCDC is evident. At the same time, we have been informed that many developing countries already have had established technical co-operation projects and activities with other developing countries. No doubt that there are national or international funds involved in TCDC. The question, therefore, is not whether there are financial resources at all but more how to enlarge them and how to organize them. I personally tend to think that for a good, sound, development-oriented and effective project, it will not be so difficult to find financial support. Last but not the least, a number of developed countries are already involved in various schemes of third country financing which again constitutes an additional resource for TCDC.

We are putting the final touches to the preparation of an information referral system, and we will launch it very soon. It will cover specific types of training institutions, research and development institutions, consultancy services, and sources of expertise. Other sources of information will also be registered if they record facilities for technical co-operation in a particular country or region.

The system will include only those institutions that each government is willing to select as having a capacity to offer for TCDC. Hence, the role of the government exercised through a designated ministry or focal point is decisive in identifying, compiling and clearing the inputs for the system. However, the United Nations agencies and UNDP itself stand ready to provide assistance in this matter.

UNDP is assuming the principal responsibility in setting up, developing and managing this central referral system. However, the system will also involve the United Nations agencies and regional economic commissions in that the relevant information and knowledge available within the United Nations system will be utilized.

The system will provide two kinds of output of services: computer printouts of country and subject listings that will be regularly updated; and an inquiry service. These services should be most useful in encouraging initiatives for projects of technical co-operation among developing countries. They should assist governments in establishing specific contacts and in developing co-operative ventures with one another directly or with the assistance of the United Nations organizations. The information system will also be used by the agencies and regional economic commissions in their own work of promoting TCDC.

STATEMENT BY MR. RAMASWAMY MANI, CHIEF PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION OFFICE, ESCAP

Insofar as the role of ESCAP in the promotion of TCDC is concerned, this has been already covered by Mr. Siriwardene, Duputy Executive Secretary in his opening statement. The report of the consultant (ESCAP/TCDC/1) has also dealt with ESCAP's programme of work in the context of TCDC. I would, therefore, confine myself to the basic functions of ESCAP as the regional arm of the United Nations, in responding primarily to the new dimensions on technical co-operation and, as the Deputy Administrator has stated, the innovative approaches to this subject. The traditional concept of technical co-operation in the form of exchange of skills, expertise and equipment is already an integral part of the programme of work of our Commission. In fact, it is doubtful whether there would be any international organization with a programme of work which was not geared towards the promotion of technical co-operation in the conventional context.

The innovative or non-traditional approach to technical co-operation would appear to rely to a large extent upon combining of resources of individual countries to reap the advantages of scale and other benefits. If this is the intention then it would be very clear that the regional commissions have an extremely vital role in this context. The rationale for the existence of a regional commission is to intensify subregional and regional co-operation in various sectors of economic and social activity. One of the vital functions of the regional commissions is to provide a forum for discussions and negotiations among member countries with a view to securing co-operative arrangements among themselves not only for economies of scale, but also strengthening their standing in a wider context, as emphasized in the report of the Group of Experts on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries (ESCAP/TCDC/4). In its legislative committees and *ad hoc* bodies, ESCAP provides for the meeting of countries to devise various forms of regional, subregional and often bilateral co-operation to promote their development objectives. Forms of such co-operation have been numerous. On the one hand, jointly with other organizations, ESCAP has arranged investment and trade promotion meetings which have been largely characterized by bilateral understandings, and on the other identified, developed and implemented schemes ranging from coarse grains to the development of a river basin and agricultural machinery to the exploration and exploitation of mineral resources. The intrumentalities for promoting regional and subregional co-operation have taken the form of not merely exchange of information and skills but also the pooling of resources for common benefit. For example, in one specific sector of activity, namely shipping, the technical co-operation among developing countries generated in the forum of ESCAP through, say, shippers co-operation illustrates the tremendous benefits that could accrue to the participating countries. The efforts being made to promote TCDC in the strengthening and expansion of shipping fleets through the joint preparation of technical specifications for liner vessels, bulk carriers and tankers could secure immense advantages to the participating countries through more favourable terms and conditions from shipbuilders. While an attempt has, hitherto, not been made by ESCAP to document in one place the various instruments being used by the Commission

to promote regional and subregional co-operation there is more than abundant evidence that there is a constant search to strengthen existing forms while at the same time exploring various new modalities.

Likewise, in the provision of technical assistance to member countries upon request and in its functioning as a clearing house of information, the role of the regional commissions in promoting TCDC is significant. Many of the activities of ESCAP are of a modest size but have the potential of a tremendous impact on development. Permit me to refer briefly to bio-gas technology. To begin with, bio-gas technology though traditionally pursued by several developing countries of ESCAP had a certain originality or newness in the regional context when it was taken up as an activity for the ESCAP's programme of work. Two successful workshops have been conducted, one in New Delhi and the other in Manila. Several important recommendations were made at these workshops emphasizing among other matters, the need for ESCAP to strengthen its clearing house functions in this field. But what is more important is that certain facts were revealed in the workshops which had hitherto remained either unknown or ignored. Thus, for example, there was great interest in the fact that the residue or affluent of the animal wastes after extraction of the bio-gas, when channelled into a reservoir of water produces a rich algae or moss on the surface, which, when dried, results in rich fodder for livestock with a protein content as high as 40 per cent. Based upon this knowledge, efforts are now under way to develop pilot or demonstration projects. The demand for further workshops in this essentially rural-based technology is considerable and the impact of this activity has been recognized in several international forums.

It is our expectation that based upon our own requirements and experiences, the efforts being made by ESCAP to promote a more comprehensive information system and clearing house would form a valuable link in the global system which has been envisaged. The collection and dissemination of information, though only a starting point, is an essential one. This is being attempted by ESCAP not merely through the compilation of information on training facilities and consultancy services, but on a continuing basis on every sector of activity. Simultaneously, through its studies and research and more through the forums that it offers for meetings of countries, the attempt towards gentle persuasion to accept the information provided is also being undertaken.

Insofar as interregional co-operation is concerned, its potential in the promotion of TCDC has already been emphasized in the Deputy Executive Secretary's statement. The recent meeting of the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions, held in Bangkok from 23 to 26 January 1976, unanimously supported the need for greater co-ordination and co-operation among the regional commissions in this important field not merely as is the case now through the exchange of information and experience, but also in identifying and developing joint programmes and approaches in specific areas. The presence here amidst us of the distinguished representative of the Economic Commission for Africa is warmly welcomed and appreciated. It is our intention to intensify inter-regional co-operation in this sector. In fact, the Commission which will be meeting towards the end of March will be discussing the subjects of TCDC and inter-regional co-operation as parts of the same item for consideration by the Ministers of the region.

Finally, a word on the extremely difficult question of the relationship between economic and technical co-operation. Insofar as ESCAP is concerned, the distinction though important need not be over-emphasized. Clearly, technical co-operation is a basic component of economic co-operation and both are inextricably inter-dependent. However, for purposes of discussion, it would be possible to make a distinction. Technical co-operation is co-operation among developing countries in a transmital of skills and techniques to increase the productivity. Economic co-operation includes technical co-operation but provides a broader framework for the getting together of countries to promote their economic and social development. Technical co-operation is an essential instrument to secure the viability of schemes for economic co-

operation. There are innumerable instances, which have been recorded, in which schemes for economic co-operation have failed to succeed on account of the fact that they had not been accompanied by the requisite development of technical skills and expertise in the recipient country to sustain the benefits of economic co-operation.

The green revolution is a clear illustration. It succeeded for a time because it was accompanied by the development of expertise and skills to sustain it. It perhaps did not continue with its success because these skills and expertise were not developed broad-based to promote the development of an appropriate infrastructure. Through economic co-operation, we identify the scope, possibilities and the modalities of schemes and approaches for technical co-operation. Neither precedes the other: to be successful they have to be simultaneous. To that extent, the programme of work of ESCAP represents the totality and to distinguish in its activities the difficult separation between economic and technical co-operation would not only be difficult but perhaps not strictly necessary.

STATEMENTS
BY
REPRESENTATIVES OF COUNTRIES

ARGENTINA

I wish to reiterate that my Government is indeed honoured to host the world conference on TCDC to be held in Argentina in 1977. Preparations for the conference have already been started and we extend a warm invitation to all Asian countries to attend the conference.

I would like to express our interest in establishing close links with the countries of this region on TCDC activities through bilateral, multilateral or interregional projects, and to point out the positive contribution of the national or regional experience of the Asian countries in the field of TCDC.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my Government's interest in all measures favouring a rapid organization and materialization of TCDC -mainly- at an interregional and bilateral level.

AUSTRALIA

My Government supports the concept of TCDC which aims at furthering co-operation and self-reliance among developing countries. We also broadly support the recommendations of the Working Group on TCDC, particularly those relating to UNDP and the regional commissions.

As a regional member of ESCAP and one whose extrabudgetary support to that body is concentrated on projects considered by the ESCAP consultant as appropriate vehicles for TCDC, we are keenly interested in the role which ESCAP will play in furthering TCDC. We note that the ACPR to ESCAP recommended that the emphasis at this meeting should be placed on the application and enhancement of TCDC in the present and projected activities of ESCAP.

Australia supports the application of TCDC principles to ESCAP activities. We feel that TCDC should be used to implement the broad development objectives already defined by ESCAP.

In identifying priority areas for TCDC projects in the region, my deligation feels consideration should be given to the work programme priorities defined by the 31st session of the Commission; viz. food and agriculture; development and transfer of technology; development, utilization and conservation of energy; raw materials and development and external financial resources. It should be possible to identify areas for early action within these broad guidelines so that efforts to promote TCDC contribute to the over-all development goals as set out in the ESCAP Work Programme for 1976-1977 and the Medium-Term Plan for 1978-1981. Existing as well as new projects should be considered as possible case studies in preparation for the global symposium. Existing projects would offer the opportunity for a more complete evaluation in the time available. New projects should be based on a demonstrated need and should be co-ordinated with the work of other organizations.

For the promotion of TCDC my delegation would favour a continuation of the current arrangements within ESCAP for dealing with TCDC. The ACPR is capable of reviewing progress on a continuous basis while the Programme and Co-ordination Office can provide co-ordination within the secretariat.

BANGLADESH

Technical co-operation among developing countries is a comparatively new concept but because of its potentialities and possibilities it has emerged in recent years as a major trend in international economic co-operation. There is now, as never before, a growing awareness among the developing countries and in the international community to foster and work for this desirable form of co-operation. This has been borne out by the comprehensive report of the Working Group on TCDC, the paper prepared by UNDP/ESCAP consultant, and the report of the Zagreb Institute. These are excellent reports and we have studied them carefully. These reports and studies have established beyond doubt that TCDC among developing countries is a laudable enterprise.

Development of developing countries is no doubt a shared goal and common duty of developing

and developed countries but, in ultimate analysis, it rests primarily on the developing countries themselves with of course effective and appropriate international support. Indeed the developing countries have been engaged in technical co-operation with each other in one form or another. However, despite potentialities, its growth has been impeded by a host of factors. These factors have been identified and it is evident that it will require actions at all levels - national, regional and global - to ensure that the impact of these inhibiting and limiting factors is lessened, if not altogether removed.

Bangladesh is in urgent need of technical assistance in the form of training facilities, expert services, equipment and assistance in project preparation. We would favour such assistance, to the extent available and forthcoming, from the developing countries since we attach great importance to the concept of TCDC. We believe that technical co-operation among them will facilitate the adaptation, transfer and standardization of technology. We support the concept of large-scale exchange of scholars, trainers and experts among developing countries both within bilateral and multilateral framework and also with third country financing. We are expanding our technical co-operation programme with neighbouring countries, and have concluded technical co-operation agreements with some of them and are presently in the process of negotiating with some others. We have ourselves made a modest beginning in this direction by setting aside some local currency funds to receive trainees from other developing countries and would be very happy to share our facilities and experience with them. We are in favour of forging links with the institutions in the developing countries with multilateral and third country financing. Trilateral co-operation should also be encouraged. We had the benefit of such co-operation with Yugoslavia and the Netherlands and are looking forward to similar co-operation this year with Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

In Bangladesh, one single agency is co-ordinating all technical co-operation activities including TCDC. We prefer cohesive and programming approach to proceeding on *ad hoc* basis. We have made projections of technical assistance requirements coinciding with the national development plan. We believe in proper co-ordination and evaluation of technical co-operation at the regional level. We highlighted in our policy speech in the last annual session of ESCAP the need for close co-ordination of technical co-operation among ESCAP countries and suggested the setting up of a clearing house of information on technical co-operation within the ESCAP Secretariat and emphasized the need for setting up a legislative committee on technical co-operation. It is gratifying to note that the UNDP/ESCAP consultant has mentioned the need for co-ordination of TCDC and the need for a forum which could be ideally located within ESCAP.

The lack of adequate know-how for preparation of necessary background documents for technical assistance projects often impedes the speedy and proper utilization of technical assistance resources by many of the developing countries of the region, including ourselves. In order to relieve this problem, I suggest that the Asian Development Institute may consider setting up workshops on a regular basis for the developing countries' officials - where intensive courses can be given on technical assistance project preparation and evaluation methods - a step which shall minimize the need for preparatory kind of assistance for individual technical assistance projects. Such workshops/seminars can also be a useful forum for exchange of information/opinion amongst the developing countries of the region which would help better programming for technical assistance projects in future.

We commend Deputy Administrator's comment that bilateral technical assistance should be untied - we would like to go one step further by suggesting that such assistance should be entirely in the form of grants - this should be applicable not only to individual technical assistance projects *per se*, but also to technical assistance components of project assistance being provided on bilateral and multilateral basis.

There is also need for dovetailing of some of the bilateral technical co-operation activities with multilateral funds. Multilateral funds which are untied in nature can provide valuable complementary adjuncts to bilateral programme and fill in some of the deficiencies in various programmes which could not be otherwise filled due to the tied nature of bilateral assistance.

While efforts should be made to make the technical co-operation programmes in the developing countries more meaningful by providing adequate facilities/incentive to the trainees/experts, yet the resource constraints of most of the developing countries would make this task impossible without complementary assistance through the multilateral channel. May I also suggest that the oil producing developing countries assist the needy countries by providing substantial untied technical assistance funds which can be utilized not only for obtaining the services of the best possible experts in the region but would also help buidling and strengthening national and regional training institutions.

GILBERT ISLANDS

We in the Gilbert Islands feel, and indeed are, very remote from our mainland neighbours and extremely small in comparison. Nevertheless, whilst in absolute terms our development problems and technical assistance needs are also very small, they are relative to the size of our economy just as important and complex as those of our larger neighbours.

At present it is difficult to co-ordinate TCDC among Pacific countries due to the vast distances that separate us, the poor communications and last but not least the limited capacities for providing technical assistance. I hope that the special problems of the Pacific countries will not be forgotten and indeed solutions to them may be suggested.

Advantages of TCDC

The principal advantage in TCDC is the pooling and sharing of knowledge and experiences peculiar to the development problem of the region. From the Gilbert Islands point of view this means gaining knowledge from the other island countries of the Pacific which have similar problems in terms of isolation, with its accompanying difficulties of both internal and external communications, the lack of land, limited production base and lack of capital for development, resulting in the reliance on established aid sources. There are also problems associated with the small population of the country in terms of small markets which may not allow a commercially viable level of sales for domestic industries.

Co-operation between the developing countries should be more cost effective and less of a burden on foreign exchange than importing western experts whose expertise may not necessarily be directly applicable to the problem in hand.

We have recently learnt of the forthcoming closure of the UNDAT project; this obviously leaves a gap in the technical assistance area previously covered by that agency. Filling this gap, where possible, with co-operation among the countries of the Pacific region would seem the most logical solution.

Co-ordination of TCDC

The establishment of an international agency to co-ordinate the flow of TCDC should in itself help to generate such flows of expertise and knowledge. Under the present *ad hoc* system technical assistance is often not offered unless specific request is made. With a co-ordinating agency, requirements and capacities can be monitored on a continuous basis.

Problems of TCDC

We can see a number of problems in the implementation of TCDC particularly in regard to protectionism in respect of commercial projects and the attitudinal problem of (lack of) confidence in each other's abilities and the scarcity of experts available to undertake technical co-operation assignments.

Member governments could do much to alleviate the problems of confidence and attitude by be-

coming involved in a technical assistance project from another developing country. Certainly in the Gilberts there have been no major projects involving technical assistance from other countries in the region so the reservations expressed on its viability are not always based on actual experience. It would also help for all countries to adopt a more positive attitude to their own abilities and to those of their neighbours.

This attitudinal problem could also be alleviated by the establishment of an international co-ordinating agency which would give more publicity to TCDC and member countries' capacities. Member countries themselves would help by supporting the agency as much as possible.

It is difficult to see an easy solution to the problem of lack of capacity to provide technical assistance due to the lack of skilled manpower. The solution must rest in the long-term training programmes of all countries.

At present there are always a large number of technical assistance assignments being carried out throughout the region. The technical assistance personnel are often unable to fulfil all the requests for assistance that are made. There should be a greater willingness on the part of governments who have received such assistance to share the knowledge gained with those who have been unable to obtain such help. There should be a generally greater willingness on the part of countries within the region to share the scacre resource of expertise.

Administrative arrangements

We are broadly in agreement with the conclusions (of the Zagreb Institute's report) but I would like to express the Gilbert Islands opinions on certain aspects as we feel them relevant.

At the national level we wish to see the administration kept to as low a level as possible. Our internal capacity for handling complex administration both nationally and internationaly is limited by constraints of manpower and time. We would propose to co-ordinate and administer TCDC within the Ministry of Finance and specifically through the Economics and Planning Division which at present handles the majority of the Gilberts liaison with multinational agencies.

Economic situation of Gilbert Islands

I would like to summarize the economic development situation of the Gilberts. Our approximate position is slightly to the left of the International Date Line and straddling the equator. The Gilbert Islands are now at the end of the Third Development Plan period and work is progressing on the formulation of the Fourth Plan which will take the country through to 1980 by which time Ocean Island Phosphates, the country's principal source of revenue at present, will be exhausted. The most important aspect of the new plan will be the establishment of an alternative production base and revenue source. By 1980 it is planned that the country will be an independent nation. Whilst we sincerely hope that our main aid sources at present, namely United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand, will continue to give us support, we shall also be taking a much broader view and this will include TCDC to a great extent.

Requirements of technical co-operation

In view of this situation it is likely that any technical co-operation assistance will be on an *ad hoc* basis. Our major requirements for technical co-operation may be in the production sector. It may be that as the plan is worked up then a firmer idea of requirements will become known of.

National co-ordination

At present the Economics and Planning Division of the Ministry of Finance attempts to co-ordinate government technical assistance requirements through liaison with the initiating ministries. In the quasi-government organizations there is only limited *ad hoc* co-ordination of requirements and the over-all picture is not readily available.

The Economics and Planning Division would consider it very advantegeous to create a co-ordinating agency to act as a focal point for receiving and providing technical assistance. Such an agency should be included within its own terms

of reference since the co-ordination of such technical co-operation comes under the broad scope of development planning.

Within Central Government, and co-ordinated by the Economics Division, there is at present a Manpower Planning Committee which has limited terms of reference. It is felt that such a committee, with expanded terms of reference and supplemented by new members, could adequately handle the co-ordination of technical assistance projects within the Gilbert Islands.

Legal arrangements

I would agree with the distinguished delegate from India who commented on the flexible nature of the legal aspects of the Colombo Plan. My reason for agreeing is again based on the capacity constraints in handling complex negotiations in a very small economy. By comparison with the size of TCDC projects on mainland Asia our requirements are tiny. I would suggest we try to avoid a situation where the administrative and legal aspects overwhelm the actual project that we wish to implement.

The distinguished delegate from the USSR told us of the many tens of thousands of people that his country had trained through technical co-operation projects. This is undoubtedly highly commendable. In my country, we have a total population of only 55,000 scattered over 2 million square miles of the Pacific. In that context we must try to keep things simple and straightforward so that the benefits are not lost in a mass of paper work.

Financing of TCDC

At present there is no financial allocation for providing technical assistance outside the country. Neither is there any special programme for assisting other developing countries with the possible exception of Tuvalu (lately the Ellice who separated from the Gilberts at the beginning of this year) with which there is likely to be a continued close liaison in development matters particularly where a project was on-going prior to separation.

In the foreseeable future there is unlikely to be a programme of financial allocation to TCDC projects. However, if funding is required it would almost certainly be on an *ad hoc* basis and we would of course welcome any support from UNDP and other multinational sources.

We are pleased to hear the enthusiasm expressed by the Australian delegation for TCDC and particularly hope that Australia will continue to give strong support to the furtherence of TCDC in the Pacific area where the concept and practice of TCDC is much less well developed than that which has been established between countries on mainland Asia and where the scale and requirements for TCDC are perhaps better understood by Australia being a more Pacific orientated country, thus better able to understand the problems we face in the area.

We would also support his views on the co-ordinating role that could be played by the existing ESCAP organization through the review of TCDC progress by the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and the co-ordinating function of the Programme and Co-ordinating Office.

I would like to associate myself with the views expressed by Mr. Mani on the relationship between technical and economic co-operation in that technical co-operation should be a valuable instrument in furthering economic co-operation and that the two should be regarded as complementary.

I would like to express my government's appreciation for the wide range of social and economic development technical co-operation activities which are being undertaken by many of the United Nations bodies throughout the Pacific region. Particularly my Government appreciates and looks forward to continued assistance in its own moves towards economic and social development from these United Nations bodies.

INDIA

We recognize that there is a need for creation of focal points for the promotion of TCDC. We have in our country a number of specialized Ministries dealing with the different aspects of TCDC. With the designating of a focal point we will be in a position to ensure better co-ordination in planning, programming and furthering TCDC. We will be very happy to co-operate with UNDP and ESCAP in the preparation of a more adequate and detailed profile of technical assistance and the matching of requirements with capacities. We also endorse the recommendation that selected programmes and projects should de veloped and implemented, utilizing the capacities that exist in different developing countries of the region and with the necessary assistance of the UN system, to demonstrate the possibilities and potentialities for TCDC. TCDC rightly represents a new dimension of co-operation and for promoting collective self-reliance among developing countries, and its strength lies in the pooling of resources, technical and capital, of the developing and the developed countries and multilateral institutions such as UNDP.

India's record of TCDC

India has, for a number of years, been participating in a variety of co-operative programmes, the most important being the Indian Technical and Economic Co-operation Programme (ITEC), bilateral assistance to neighbouring countries, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the programmes of the UN Specialized Agencies, participation in the joint industrial ventures overseas, the Colombo Plan for Co-operative Economic Development in South and South-East Asia, the Special Commonwealth African Assistance Plan (SCAAP), the programme of co-operation with the Asian Development Bank's Technical Assistance Special Fund and the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC). Be it training facilities, provision of services of experts, supply of equipment or financial contribution, India has participated whole-heartedly with developing countries both within and outside the region, with the sole objective of accelerating their economic development through transfer of technology in the form of men, materials and services. India's efforts have been prompted by its realisation of the responsibility of the developing countries to promote their mutual development and of the relatively greater relevance of the technology available in the developing countries themselves for this process of development.

I would in this connection invite attention to our paper "India's Record of Experience in and Outlook Towards Technical Co-operation Among Developing Countries", outlining briefly India's modest but determined efforts to promote TCDC. We hope with the wide dissemination of information about the fields in which India could offer technical co-operation to developing countries, there will be greater awareness of the scope which exists and which can be developed for the promotion of TCDC.

Co-ordination of TCDC

We also welcome the suggestion to the need for a co-ordinating agency at the national level so as to minimize, if not altogether remove, the *ad hocism* in promoting TCDC. A number of development programmes in execution under the aegis of ESCAP have been identified. We would only suggest that to start with it may be worthwhile concentrating on a few selective but critical sectors rather than on a wide front.

Information gap

The centralised information referral system being set up at UNDP Headquarters would go a long way in filling the information and communication gap about the capacities and requirements of developing countries. A properly formulated information referral system linked with the information systems in different institutions at national level could prove very useful. Regional bodies can play a useful supplementary role in this regard.

Preferential treatment for developing countries

The need for according preferential treatment to utilization of capacities in the developing countries by applying some kind of a first refusal facility by giving a certain percentage of price

advantage for equipment and supplies from the developing countries has already been acknowledged. We have already suggested that a certain minimum number of experts from developing countries, say 50%, should be included in the short list of experts suggested to a recipient country. We would urge early follow-up action on these which have already been endorsed by the Governing Council of the UNDP.

Zagreb report

Another valuable report is the one prepared by the Institute for Developing Countries, Zagreb, Yugoslavia. As rightly emphasized in this report, co-ordination of the activities of the different organizations dealing with TCDC is very necessary. We would also endorse the recommendation that the Special Information Unit at the national level need not become a data bank but, instead, should be connected with national and international sources of information. This report has done a valuable service in highlighting the need to establish inter-disciplinary consultancy nucleus and the support that could be provided by developed countries in this regard. Both projects and programmes have their legitimate places in the furtherance of TCDC. The lack of knowledge of the capacities of developing countries can be remedied by the proposed network of information systems. We would commend the early establishment of the information referral system which should include, among others, details of training facilities, expertise, sources of equipment, sub-contracting and consultancy services.

The Zagreb report rightly draws attention to the fact that TCDC should not be considered an end in itself but should serve to foster and strengthen other forms of co-operation among developing countries.

Flow of funds for TCDC

It will be quite relevant to allude here to the General Assembly resolution on the mid-term review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade. There is an urgent need to reverse the declining trend of the net flow of financial resources of official development assistance. As against the target of 0.7% of official development assistance, as a percentage of gross national product, the net flow has decreased from 0.34% in 1969-70 to 0.32% in 1974. Added to this has been, amongst others, the burden of debt service payments of developing countries. We would, therefore, strongly urge for an increased flow of assistance on soft terms. It does not need to be over-emphasized that untying of capital and technical assistance on an increasing scale is the need of the hour.

Interregional Co-operation

There is a lot which has to be done by the UN and its specialized agencies in promoting inter-regional co-operation. This is the only way to ensure a co-ordinated approach and to avoid duplication of efforts. As already acknowledged by the UNDP Administrator and the Governing Council of UNDP, our effort should be to build up a result-oriented organization and, from this point of view, the traditional distinction between technical and economic co-operation should not be carried too far and it should be recognized that both these are complementary inputs towards achieving the goal of all-round economic development, in particular, of the developing countries.

Legal arrangements for TCDC

As we are on the threshold of concretizing our ideas on furthering TCDC, the legal arrangements should be as flexible as possible to achieve the best results. An understanding on a multilateral basis dovetailed with bilateral arrangements on matters of detail could go a long way in this regard. We would also commend the approach suggested in the report of the Zagreb Institute for triangular financing and the consortia type of financing of TCDC projects with the participation of the developing countries, the developed countries and the international organizations. In this great task of promoting TCDC both the developed and the developing countries and the international organizations have very important roles to play.

Administrative arrangements

In India different specialized Ministries of the Government are concerned with aspects of technical co-operation pertaining to them. The scope and content of external economic assistance, including technical assistance, is assessed periodically as a prelude to the formulation of the Five Year Plans and Annual Plans. In spite of the fact that there are well established rules and procedures relating to different aspects of technical co-operation, still in the context of the new dimensions for TCDC there is a need for a focal point which will co-ordinate the activities at the national level. This will have to be serviced by an information system which will not be a data bank in itself but will be a referral or a clearing house which will be linked to the specialized institutions in the country and with the centralized information referral system at United Nations Headquarters.

Uniformity in matters of detail in the setting up of the focal point, the co-ordinating agency and the national information system is neither feasible nor necessary in the context of the varied administrative, political and constitutional set-ups in the countries of the region.

Legal arrangements

The need is for a flexible system as the new dimensions of TCDC are yet to be fully identified and appreciated. Here too uniformity is not a prerequisite for promoting TCDC.

The umbrella type of arrangement as in the Colombo Plan, coupled with bilateral arrangements, is a good model to adopt. India has a number of general technical co-operation agreements and arrangements relating to experts, and trainees are fairly well codified. There is, however, need to review this periodically and bring about suitable changes.

Financial arrangements

India has already a number of programmes with a large TCDC content. While for increasing the spread of the conventional technical co-operation, additional resources will be needed, increased use of the unutilized resources of the developing countries themselves need not necessarily call for additional resources. The funding arrangements available under the existing bilateral and multilateral programmes could be made use of for increasing TCDC.

Third country financing by developed countries and trinagular arrangements involving financing by the developed countries and multilateral institutions are commended for adoption.

Role of international organizations

The report of Dr. Hernan Santa Cruz on the role of the international organizations in promoting TCDC contains very useful recommendations. UNDP has been given the central promotional and co-ordinating role by the UN system for TCDC matters. The regional commissions have an important role in furthering the actions of the UN system.

In avoiding duplication of efforts and in ensuring optimum utilization of resources, the international organizations have a main function.

To a great extent technical co-operation so far has been on an *ad hoc* basis, in the sense that the requirements of the countries of the region and the capacities available within the region have not been scientifically identified and matched. As the developing countries have been increasingly taking to economic planning, it will be useful to identify the needs of the countries of the region with the availability of resources in the form of men and material to promoting TCDC. The regional commissions could play a very useful role here.

In the fast changing economic situations, coupled with inter-dependence of the world community, seasonal imbalances occur whether it is in terms of manpower or production capacity. Regional commissions can remedy the situation to the mutual advantage of the developing countries of the region.

The countries within the ESCAP region have quite a lot of common problems such as agriculture based economies, need for increased agricultural production, improvement of infrastructural facilities, improvement of communications etc. The effectiveness of TCDC in tackling these common problems is very high with the active involvement of ESCAP. The wide information and communication gap as regards capacities and requirements could be effectively bridged by the information systems.

There is an imperative need to implement early the decisions of the Governing Council of UNDP which suggested special consideration to be given to the recruitment of experts, consultants, use of sub-contractors and purchase of equipment and material from developing countries.

Inter-regional co-operation

TCDC aims at collective self-reliance of developing countries and enhancing the total availability of technical assistance. Projects aimed at inter-regional co-operation would be an effective tool to achieve this.

Inter-regional projects which have a TCDC element should be identified and implemented.

India has a number of projects for inter-regional co-operation such as the Commonwealth Science Council and the Technology Transfer Programme which India has entered into with UNIDO.

Inter-relationship between technical and economic co-operation

Technical co-operation and economic co-operation, in the ultimate analysis, are not two clearly distinguishable and conflicting inputs. They are complementary to each other and mutually reinforcing ones. Both are essential inputs for realizing the goal of economic development. The distinction, if any, between the two can be justified at best for operational reasons.

If technical co-operation is properly formulated and implemented, it is a sure method for bringing about economic development of the recipient country. The key role of the technical co-operation is the generation of the absorptive capacity of the recipient country. Its merit lies not in the size of its operations in money terms, but in its effectiveness in making the fullest use of the economic aid or assistance. Another important characteristic is the absence of the traditional donor and recipient relationship. In technical co-operation the role of the partners is that of transferer and transferee of technology. Technical co-operation has pride of place in its philosophy - transfer of appropriate technology and assisting the recipient country in becoming self-reliant. Compartmentalization and rigid distinction between economic and technical co-operation is, therefore, unnatural, illogical and anachronistic.

If TCDC in its new dimension is to result in enhancement of the total availability of resources, there will be no place for looking at these two as separate entities. The only way will be to increase the size of both economic and technical co-operation programmes.

INDONESIA

The idea of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries is actually not new for us in this Asian region. The Colombo Plan has to a certain extent started to implement the idea of such technical co-operation, in which some developing countries have been contributors and recipients at the same time.

What is actually new is the innovative approach to technical co-operation conducted by the agencies of the UN family. We are all aware of the significance of TCDC. The rationale behind it is clear to us.

What is difficult is the translation of the concept into realities. In this respect the vital importance of continuity and expanding scope of co-operation is to be underlined.

As stated in the paper prepared by Mr. V.K. Dikshit, the major problems affecting TCDC are

(a) a wide information and communication gap about the capacities and requirements of developing countries, leading unfortunately to a certain lack of mutual confidence

(b) the lack of finance, particularly foreign exchange

(c) the attitudinal barrier

(d) certain procedures of existing donor countries, international organizations and UNDP

(e) the lack of an adequate mechanism to promote such co-operation.

In order to overcome these problems a few suggestions which appear of particular importance and relevance to the ESCAP region have been put forward. We appreciate very much Mr. Dikshit's efforts in looking for the solutions for such problems. However, we still have some doubt on some of the recommendations or suggestions made in the paper, especially with regard to its financial aspect. Indonesia is now considering the possibility of assigning a particular place for TCDC in her national development plan, with due account given to her present ability, capability and condition. For the time being we regard TCDC as a necessary supplement to the existing and evolving technical co-operation that we have up till now.

Our experience shows that language is still another barrier to us. We have some training facilities as well as expertise in certain fields or sectors. However, most of the training programmes are conducted in the national language.

Role of ESCAP

What role ESCAP could and would play in implementing the concept of TCDC is to be discussed in the light of the function that has been assigned to the special unit of UNDP.

We appreciate very much the first effort of ESCAP in composing and distributing the first issue of the available training courses and consultancy services in Asia and the Pacific. Such issue should be periodically up-dated for the sake of bridging the information and communication gap about the growing capacities and increasing requirements of the developing countries.

Administrative, legal and financial arrangements

As far as Indonesia is concerned, technical co-operation is a vital component of economic co-operation. Both are treated as important supplements to our economic and social development plan, programming and its implementation. The magnitudes in absolute terms of such foreign inputs are increasing every year, although their percentages to domestic inputs are on a steady decline.

The programming of multilateral as well as bilateral economic and technical co-operation is co-ordinated by the National Development Planning Agency. Technical ministries are responsible for the implementation of projects which have been approved and the financing of which is reflected in the yearly development budget. Further approval is required from the Ministry of Finance for the financial disbursement. Progress reports on the project implementation are submitted periodically to the central authorities, among others, the Presidential Office, the National Development Planning Agency, the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank.

With regard to the administrative control of international technical co-operation there is a co-ordinating body under the name of Co-ordinating Committee for International Technical Co-operation. It consists of four government agencies, namely the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Cabinet Secretariat, the National Development Planning Agency and the Ministry of Finance.

Indonesia's participation in international technical co-operation is mainly confined to her status as receiver. TCDC has been treated on a case by case and country by country basis through bilateral agreements, direct request for mutual interest. It is not centrally co-ordinated and it is done on an *ad hoc* basis. The same applies with respect to its financial aspect. Such financing is derived from the yearly routine budget of some technical ministries.

The progress in the implementation of our national development plan and our experience up till now have led to the need for restructuring the central bodies dealing with the programming, implementation and co-ordination of technical co-operation. It is in this respect coincidental that international agencies in the UN family have taken up innovative approach to technical co-operation in the form of TCDC. It gives us more impetus to prepare thoroughly the restructuring of the above mentioned central organs including the information (referral) system.

With regard to the financial aspect, I would like to support the statement (in the report prepared by the Zagrab Institute - Yugoslavia) that programming of technical co-operation among developing countries at the national level seems to be more of financial than a substantive problem. Consequently, if programming of TCDC is to be developed, it is of considerable importance to support it with a continuing availability of financial sources which are integrated in the development programme. Therefore, the process of implementing TCDC is to be related to the process of national development programming.

In our view the financing of TCDC is and will remain a constraint in the foreseeable future for some developing countries, including Indonesia. Consequently, we would rather choose and support the use of third country as well as multilateral financing arrangements. ESCAP could play an important role in promoting such arrangements for Asia and the Pacific region. It might be possible that Indonesia is in a better position to inform the coming global conference on TCDC as to what extent Indonesia is able to participate in TCDC.

ISRAEL

Israel as a country that is among the first to engage in technical co-operation with other developing countries, propogating the true concept of TCDC, of which I am sure many of our colleagues here are well aware, subscribes fully with the proposals offered by most of the delegates.

May I express the hope for a fast and full realization of all TCDC resolutions and wish this conference every success.

JAPAN

My Government appreciates the efforts of developing countries on this matter through United Nations General Assembly, UNDP Governing Council and other fora. We recognize them as good evidence of the efforts for self-reliance of developing countries of which importance has been reiterated in considering programme of work or activities in various fora such as ESCAP. My Government, therefore, could support such efforts for TCDC as much as possible.

My Government is of the view that, in order to achieve ultimate purposes of TCDC, we should first study to utilize the existing administrative, legal and financial arrangements rather than to consider establishing new institutions or new funds for TCDC, since we have to avoid duplications and waste of resourceses.

KOREA

Like other developing countries, Korea has been short of capital and unable to finance programmes aimed at a rapid economic growth by means of domestic savings. For the past ten years, during which the national economy grew remarkably, Korea depended upon external earnings for 9.7 per cent of her Gross National Product on an annual average. Loans from other countries and international institutions made up about one half of her total external resources. As Korea was weak both in capital and technology, the Korean Government inaugurated the Ministry of Sience and Technology (MOST) in 1967 as the central government agency responsible for the administration of science and technology. The Technical Co-operation Bureau under the Ministry will be the contact for technical co-operation with

foreign countries. The other Government agencies providing technical co-operation and assistance to industry are as follows:

(1) Industrial Advancement Administration

(2) National Industrial Standards Research Institute

(3) Patent Office.

May I introduce the other body, "Korea Institute of Science and Technology" (KIST), which was founded by a legislative Act in 1966 as an independent non-profit contract research organization. The Institute introduced a rather unconventional research management system into Korea. Namely, it adopted a contract research system. Second, it adopted a research system based on independent laboratories as basic organizational units. Third, it adopted a contract appointment system. During the six years since 1969, KIST fulfilled 1035 contracts of a combined value of $25 million. Also located on KIST campus are a number of related institutes which in effect combine to form the Seoul science research and technical co-operation complex or "Science Park".

With the increasing importance of technical co-operation in the five-year economic development plans, international technical co-operation is to be one of the major goals of the Fourth Five Year Development Plan (1977-1981) which is now being formulated.

The Korean Government provides more than one hundred training courses to foreign paticipants nominated by their governments. Details of the training courses and institutions where they are conducted are given in the ESCAP handbook "Training Courses available in developing countries".

The Korean Government already has many technical co-operation arrangements with developing countries in various fields. A soil expert from my country will be expected to participate in the feasibility study in agricultural field in the ESCAP region.

LAOS

(Translation from French)

The People's Democratic Republic of Laos only recently obtained complete independence after a long struggle for national liberation which lasted almost 30 years. This murderous war not only weakened our human and economic potential but also prevented us from participating in the general development which gave a new impetus to the poorer countries after the end of the Second World War. Moreover, my country's geographical situation puts it in an unfavourable position as it has no access to the sea. It is therefore not surprising that Laos is one of the 25 countries with the lowest *per capita* income.

Now that peace has been regained, my Government is determined to make up this enormous leeway as quickly as possible. It is fully aware that development cannot be carried out without the assistance of friendly developed countries or the co-operation of countries in a position similar to our own. Our needs are enormous and TCDC is a matter of the utmost importance for us.

At this stage our efforts will be concentrated in the fields of agriculture, livestock and the exploitation of forest and mineral resources. Although we shall be guided by the spirit of self-sufficiency, we cannot dispense with or cut ourselves off from such regional and international co-operative organizations as ESCAP and UNDP.

I should like to bring up the question of the criterion on which the importance to be accorded in the programmes of assistance and co-operation should be based. There is often a tendency to take the number of inhabitants as the basis for comparison. I believe that the degree of urgency and the delay to be made up should be regarded as equally important criteria. The world has seen examples of countries which, although limited in physical size and human potential, once given an impetus have been able to make a substantial contribution to the over-all development of the human race.

I consider it necessary to have an organization at the regional level whose administrative, legis-

lative and financial arrangements are sufficiently flexible to co-ordinate the efforts of the interested countries and international organizations.

I should like to reaffirm my Government's steadfast belief that a secure and lasting peace is a prerequisite for co-operation. And that peace will only be secure and lasting to the extent that every country, big or small, accepts, both in theory and in practice, the fundamental principle of mutual respect for the national independence of every other country.

MONGOLIA

All of us are fully conscious today of the over-riding importance of increasing production and raising living standards of peoples and all our efforts and priorities are bound towards this purpose. Progress in this direction cannot be achieved without an appropriate application of science and technology. It is our endeavour in Mongolia to see that science and technology become a mighty instrument in the hands of people and that they are in a position to apply them in their daily lives and in construction of a highly developed socialist society.

However, we are aware that the spread and utilization of scientific and technological knowledge has to be carried out while taking due note of ecological factors and in such a way as to maintain clear vision of our final objectives - namely building of an affluent society for all its people.

In this respect promotion of technical co-operation among the developing countries of the region within the framework of ESCAP in all fields of technical co-operation such as transfer of technological know-how, exchange of scientific information, joint ventures etc. is of paramount importance.

The Government of the Mongolian People's Republic pays due attention to the development of science and technology and to the fruitful co-operation in this field on bilateral and multi-lateral basis with interested countries. So a high level body of technical co-operation - State Committee of Scientific and Technical Co-operation - headed by one of the Deputy Chairmen of the Council of Ministers, was established a few years ago and has been successfully functioning since then.

My country fully endorses ideas and proposals in respect of ways and means of promoting technical co-operation among developing countries of the region and is ready to participate in it according to the means at our disposal and prospects of ventures.

I would like to make a short observation on one most important factor, crucial for successful promotion of fruitful economic co-operation, including technical co-operation among all nations, particularly countries of the Asian region. Unless durable peace and stability are ensured in the region and complete mutual understanding is consolidated among the Asian nations, economic and other co-operation, beneficial for all, is impossible and will remain as a subject of aspirations and hopes only.

Considerable achievements have been gained in Asia in this direction and as a result of the consistant efforts of peace-loving forces in Asia, Asia is becoming a continent of peace and concord from a continent of contradictions and tension, thus creating favourable conditions for the development of truly beneficial economic co-operation among Asian nations. My country, true to the principles of her peace-loving foreign policy, sincerely welcomes these favourable changes of situation in Asia in general.

There is not a single issue of contemporary international life which is not inter-related with the others. And that is why final solution of any of them cannot be reached separately.

I wish to stress the importance of ensuring durable peace and stability in Asia on a collective basis and the development of friendly relations and all possible co-operation among the states of the continent. The ensuring of peace and stability in the region requires the patient and persistent efforts of all states concerned.

All our efforts and endeavours to promote any kind of co-operation with the aim of solving acute economic problems facing the Asian countries, especially developing countries, should also be directed to the simultaneous solution of political problems of international significance which will in its turn create the solid foundation for economic development.

NEPAL

This is a unique meeting of its kind. The lofty ideal of the future co-operation is in front of us. We are preparing to co-operate and co-ordinate our entire efforts to create a society and an economy of its own nature. We are changing the mode of help and co-operation. The idea of TCDC has been realized and accepted as one of the prime mover in the field of international co-operation. The pace of development among developing countries is different. The economic structure and technical know-how vary from country to country. There exists even today a reasonable amount of technical co-operation between the countries of the region. Like my country, some of us are already enjoying the fruits of the idea of TCDC.

This type of technical co-operation is indeed a good basis to establish the fundamental structure in the advancement of technical development. The science of technology is advancing every minute in our world. Modern technology requires a huge investment of resources in the field of research. We, the developing countries at present, are not in a position to compare and to contest with any developed country in this field. That is why our effort should be always to gain more knowledge and help from the developed countries without jeopardizing our efforts of TCDC. TCDC should not be a forum of sharing ignorance among ourselves. The co-operation should help us to get more benefit for further co-operation with the developed countries. Let us not be over ambitious and impractical, let us be pragmatic and practical to consider better ways and means to find out the maximum possibilities of co-operation between developing countries and also with the developed countries.

I like to draw attention to the fact that we know more about the developed countries than about our own region. That is why, first of all, ESCAP could play a role as store house of information. We can also create a sort of bank of technical experts of this region. There is also the possibility of helping the weaker members among the developing countries by other more advanced developing countries in the field of economic aid and grant. This TCDC should not only try to make the gap between developing and developed countries less, but also should first try to bring the gap narrow among themselves. The co-operation between the developing countries in the field of technology should not be imposed but should evolve naturally.

This August Body should coolly think and decide the basis of the future blueprint of the technical co-operation among developing countries without being biased by the historical past.

NETHERLANDS

The idea of technical co-operation among developing countries has a great appeal for the Netherlands. It fits excellently into our philosophy on development co-operation in which the idea of self-reliance takes a predominant place. The attention given to TCDC by ESCAP and its Executive Secretary is considered fully justified and we applaud it. I am instructed to support ESCAP fully in this respect.

It is felt that TCDC should be integrated in normal development programmes and should not form a separate part of it. We feel that the contributions, which countries like mine, make to ESCAP's effort to increase the well being of the region, can have a much greater effect if the "hard currency" component is matched by a "local currency" component which might be expertise, local costs, travel costs etc. Thus a dollar will have much more value and more work can be done with the same allocation.

The above implies that the Netherlands will gladly contribute towards the financing of projects

that may be realized by way of TCDC, for instance by taking care of the "hard currency" needs of such a project. However, as a matter of principle, we do not favour the quest for new projects whose most important aim would only be to make TCDC possible. Co-operation in operational activities is a *means*, not an *aim* in itself.

Within the programme of work it should be possible to look for possibilities to reach implementation by means of TCDC, before expertise from outside the region is sought. We feel that this is a most important aspect of TCDC, namely that regional know-how should get a chance to be fully used.

At this very moment a Netherlands Delegation is here in Bangkok to discuss our co-operation with ESCAP for the current year. TCDC is a major aspect of our talks and we are looking to include as much regional expertise as possible into our co-operation.

I am happy that my country decided to finance the preparation of handbooks on training facilities and consultancy services available in the developing countries of the region, and of a roster of experts from these countries. To pay for the cost of this project, US$ 35,000 have already been transmitted to ESCAP.

I should like to stress the importance of the role that the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives should play in seeking possibilities to implement TCDC as widely as possible.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Papua New Guinea acknowledges the importance of this meeting and we fully endorse hopes previously expressed that this and the following series of meetings will have concrete outcomes.

We are becoming increasingly aware of the extent and significance of the resources for technical assistance that exist amongst the developing countries of Asia, which we have left largely unexplored. It is appropriate to say that our awareness has been developed as a result of our comparatively recent participation in the Colombo Plan and of our experience as a recipient of multilateral (aid) and notably that through the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation which appears to be taking a leading role in the promotion of at least one aspect of TCDC - the use of developing country experts.

We support wholeheartedly this attempt to build upon TCDC relationships already established, and see particular value in the idea of a regional institution, to promote this kind of cooperation.

However, we would like to commend the distinguished delegate from Thailand for drawing attention to what may well be the issue of focal significance - that of the financial capacity of developing countries to develop TCDC for optimal effect. We should be cautious lest in our earnest endeavours to promote TCDC we base whatever conclusions we may reach on concepts the implecations of which may not have been fully explored.

The financial obligations attendent upon the optimal use of TCDC among the developing countries are beyond the capacities of many developing countries without the active support of developed countries and the international institutions for multilateral technical assistance.

In this context may I allude to one of the problems identified in the documents prepared for this meeting and referred to as the "attitude barrier". I am not persuaded that among developing countries this any longer constitutes a serious block to TCDC. I feel it does, at least by implication, manifest itself in the policies of some developed country donors, through a reluctance to acknowledge the value or the possibility in bilateral programmes of inputs from the developing world. The developing countries particularly in this region have already established a pattern of mutual aid but we rely very heavily on reinforcement of our endeavours from the governments and agencies of the developed world.

The objective of enhancing capacities of developing countries both to contribute to and effectively utilize TCDC: by giving increasing attention to the evaluation of its work programmes concerned with the promotion of intra-regional technical co-operation exchanges, and enchancing its capacity to identify further possibilities in this regard - to mention only a few of the means available.

This it may be anticipated ESCAP would have the will and the desire to undertake - but ESCAP works to a finite budget and it is likely that in order to meet increased commitments, increased demands for financial contributions would need to be made upon member countries. And we must doubt the capacity of developing member countries to make these contributions, however much they accept that TCDC ultimately enhances self-reliance.

If this constraint is acknowledged, it becomes increasingly important that the role of developed country bilateral donors in promoting TCDC in the region may need to be both expanded and reinterpreted. In this regard, I would like to reinforce the remarks made by the Deputy Administrator of UNDP, that bilateral technical assistance from the "developed" source be untied in respect to project and programming inputs from developing countries. Some have given a lead here, others have yet to take this step.

In the course of remarks made by distinguished delegates from member countries and international organizations we have been made aware that these organizations are already to a varying but to a significant extent implementing the general principle of TCDC in their assistance programmes. We have been assured that the agencies of the U.N. system are seeking an increasingly large proportion of their technical assistance manpower resources from developing countries. The use of technical expertise from developing Commonwealth countries we are also aware is a basic policy of the Commonwealth Secretariat's Fund for Technical Co-operation.

These are trends and policies that are vital to the success of TCDC as a developmental reality, and within this region the focus already falls upon ESCAP. It is fundamental to the operation of ESCAP, and as far as I am aware always has been, that the technical resources of the region be sought for from among the region's developing countries. However, with increasing emphasis upon TCDC it is likely that ESCAP will be asked to strengthen and possibly enlarge its role in this regard. This may occur by ESCAP providing assistance in the development and strengthening of national administrative structures concerned with the promotion and management of TCDC and by intensifying training programmes.

It may be that only if both these means operate - the expansion of the role of international organizations and a partial reinterpretation of that of developed bilateral donors - that the broader concepts of TCDC can be realized.

THE PHILIPPINES

I address myself not so much to the "why" but to "how" (of TCDC). "How" should consist of political will to take effective measures to implement meaningful co-operation to include:

(1) Setting up of a focal and co-ordinating unit

(2) Setting up financial allocation in the national budget

(3) Improvement in procedures - travel, implementation - expectation response to request.

Meantime that most developing countries have not set up finance, TCDC could be promoted and expanded by the present donor countries and multilateral organizations. To the extent possible they should draw from developing countries components of their assistance--experts, fellowship and equipment.

Special Unit in UNDP Headquarter is welcome. Its main value will be the co-ordination on global and interregional levels. But it is too far from most countries to meet our needs. This points to the need for regional commission to struction itself to service countries in the region. Many of the functions suggested for special unit in New York could be delegated to regional commission.

Administrative, legal and financial arrangements

Matters relating to administrative, legal and financial arrangements to my mind are central and crucial to the promotion and making effective TCDC. There cannot be standardized arrangements for countries. These arrangements in each country will depend on its political structure and its laws. The need is for the strengthening and making more effective the machinery and procedures.

What I do urge is the creation and effective operation of the focal point and co-ordinating unit in the country. Subject to the laws of the country, it should be sited in the planning agency. It should have powers to plan and programme TCDC resources made available and to administer the programme. It must have direct contact with like organizations in other countries.

Communications between countries of TCDC usually are channeled through diplomatic channels. While procedures could be streamlined, this channel inevitably slows the process. Direct contact between focal points could substantially expedite handling of TCDC matters.

TCDC is implemented on the basis of the principle of self-help. This should characterize the operations to promote TCDC. I would therefore urge that the facilities and principles the host country gives should be considered and should constitute only as a supplement to what the receiving country gives or allows in implementing that specific activity.

While conclusion of technical co-operation agreements would be desirable, it may straightjacket operations of TCDC. I would propose that a country announce what programmes of co-operation it is prepared to undertake, and its general terms and conditions. This announcement could be given to the regional commission which is urged to circulate it to developing member countries. The bilateral negotiation would then follow.

I would commend to developed countries and multilateral organizations to allocate funds to sub-regional organizations for them to programme and administer to promote TCDC among its members subject to agreement. This will be made on the basis of general parameters and should not refer to specific project or activity. This, I believe, will be a very potent instrument to promote TCDC. This arrangement, moreover, will enable the member countries of the organization to meet requirements as they arise from time to time.

Role of international organizations

I shall refer exclusively to the paper prepared by Dr. Santa Cruz (TCDC/6). I would like to invite the attention and consideration of this meeting to para. 82, page 18 of the report which reads:

"Should the volume of technical co-operation - both bilateral and multilateral - reach an important level in the rgion, and the number of projects justify it, the Governing Council may wish to consider the advantages that would result from the decentralization of the regional bureaux to the field."

My delegation feels highly elated about the idea contained in this paragraph. It is supportive of the proposal of the Philippines, propounded during the 18th and 20th sessions of the UNDP Governing Council, to consider regionalizing UNDP by posting regional bureaux in the region they service.

This proposal gains special signification in the light of the crucial role UNDP plays in the United Nations development system. The proposal will, I would wish to reiterate, make UNDP more effective not only in promoting TCDC but also in promoting total development of developing countries. TCDC could therefore be the new dimension in considering this proposal.

SRI LANKA

At the outset may I say that TCDC is no new concept. Under the Colombo Plan scheme it has been in existence for 25 years. The Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, which is the technical assistance arm of the Commonwealth Secretariat, has also been active in this area by provid-

ing fellowships in developing Commonwealth countries. What we are now considering therefore is really how to expand significantly TCDC.

Attitudinal barrier

We feel that the attitudinal barrier will prove to be the most intractable problem. It is also the first problem that has to be solved since merely making available detailed information on capacities and training institutions in developing countries, or even providing the necessary finance, is no guarantee that these will be used. That this is a very real problem is borne out by our own experience in Sri Lanka as follows:

(a) When requests for fellowships from various government agencies are received, developed countries usually are high on the list of suggested countries where training should be sought. If comparable facilities are identified in a developing country and offered to the agency there is either a protest or a request for postponement to a later year when prospects for financing in a developed country may be brighter.

(b) Academic qualifications obtained in developing countries are not recognized for employment or promotions.

(c) Even for relatively simple items of equipment manufactures from developed countries are preferred. Often the defence (usually justified) is lack of satisfactory post sales services.

This has been our experience and I am sure many of the countries around this table would have had similar experiences.

How do we overcome this barrier? As usual, it is easier to define and analyze the problem than to find solutions. Here I would commend the suggestion in the consultant's report that scientists, technologists and industrialists in specific fields be brought together to discuss capacities and needs. Another possibility may be the forging of links among universities in developing countries involving exchange of scholars and staff so as to further mutual understanding and appreciation of their work in the academic field.

Financing of TCDC

After adequate motivation for expanded TCDC has been secured, the next big problem will be finance, especially the external cost i.e. return air passages, fees, etc. Lack of foreign exchange is a problem for most developing countries and especially those characterized by United Nations as the Most Seriously Affected (MSA) countries. Here multi- and bi-lateral assistance would be necessary such as:

(a) Third country financing - Our experience here has been that such requests have received a very poor response from most bi-lateral donors.

(b) Use of IPF - We believe TCDC could be expanded overnight if UNDP and other United Nations agencies could amend their recruitment and procurement procedures to give special weightage to the capacities in developing countries. We have no doubt that the developed countries, as an earnest of their commitment to TCDC, would support this.

(c) TCDC may be incorporated in bi-lateral trade agreements. Under such agreements any deficit is made good periodically by the debtor country in hard currency. There is an obligation on both parties to purchase from each other and this could facilitate the financing of technical cooperation between the two countries.

Focal point for TCDC

A focal point within the country for TCDC is very desirable especially in those countries where technical assistance is handled by various government agencies.

Dissemination of information

A start has already been made with ESCAP publication giving training institutions in the region and the Commonwealth Fund publication covering such institutions in Commonwealth countries. This should be an on-going exercise covering wider areas and should be done as part of ESCAP's normal service to the countries of the region.

THAILAND

Words of warning

Much as we like to come to the point and air our views on the agenda, we feel, however, that it is rather necessary to say a few words of warning. Let us not be over-concerned with technical co-operation, which is, after all, only one aspect of co-operation between one country with another and a small one at that. Even at its highest point, technical co-operation or, to use the traditional term, technical assistance from a developed country to a developing country, only accounted for a very small fraction of all the total co-operative undertakings between the two countries while complementary relationship between technical co-operation and these other co-operative activities also existed.

In other words, we are of an opinion that, in our attempt to promote technical co-operation between developing countries, we should not lose sight of the fact that, firstly, it is but one of the co-operative undertakings which can exist between two countries and, secondly, technical and other forms of co-operation can and do have promotional effect on one another.

For these reasons, this forum should exercise caution on the adoption, development and utilization of indigenous technology. Firstly, the decision as to what kind of technology is the most appropriate, does not always lie within the government sector whom we represent here. On the contrary, in most of the countries, the private sectors play a vital role in this decision. Secondly, the utilization of indigenous technology is not unprecedented. Because of such utilization, development performance of the developing countries still left much to be desired. Over-emphasis on this issue of indigenous technology, might, therefore, produce adverse effect on the development performance and hence defeat our own purpose. Thirdly, development of technology is both costly and time consuming, neither of which could be afforded by the developing world. Thus, we should never lose sight of these basic facts.

Problems affecting TCDC

We understand that the purpose of the meeting is to find new methods and explore new avenues for promoting TCDC. But, before doing this, we should begin from the outset, by looking into the factors which are the hindrance to TCDC. That is to say, we should first have a consensus on the problems before attempting to find the means to solve them. The Working Group on TCDC has identified the major problems affecting TCDC as a wide information and communication gap about the capacities and requirements of developing countries, the lack of finance, the attitudinal barrier, and the lack of an adequate mechanism to promote such co-operation.

As regards the first problem or the wide information and communication gap about the capacities and requirements of developing countries, this is a problem only when TCDC is considered in the traditional context, putting the two co-operating parties in the roles of donor and recipient. But if we are to view TCDC in a new dimension of technical co-operation and to use it to promote collective self-reliance among developing countries, I think there is a need to go deeper than to look at the capacities and requirements of developing countries. This is because the promotion of TCDC through identification of capacities and requirements of developing countries implies the availability of fund to finance the matching process which may be unrealistic, considering the financial situation of the developing countries themselves, the financial problem facing the United Nations and the fact that the bilateral donors, with a few exceptions, have not really come up to expectation. Developing countries will really have to make an effort to finance the TCDC activities themselves and what needs to be identified, therefore, is a truly co-operating activity or an activity which would benefit both contracting parties, so that each party will really make an effort to come forward with the necessary finance instead of asking for help from other quarters. Even if such an outside source of finance were available, it would still be necessary to identify co-operating projects in ways more than just matching capacities with requirements in order that TCDC will have a lasting and

beneficial impact on the co-operating partners. One of the most important problems affecting TCDC, therefore is the wide information and communication gap about the mutually beneficial activities that developing countries can co-operate. Information about capacities and requirements of the countries concerned may help indentify these activities but it must first be recognized that TCDC requires something more than just matching capacities with requirements.

Attitudinal barrier

As regards other factors identified by the WGTC, we are afraid that we do not really agree that the attitudinal barrier and the lack of an adequate mechanism to promote TCDC are the problems. In the beginning it is quite natural that countries classified as underdeveloped or developing do not look up to each other as co-operating partner, but once a country has demonstrated its capacities, it is only a matter of time before these capacities are recognized and taken adventage of. By the same token, the lack of an adequate mechanism to promote TCDC is not also the real problem and seems to be secondary to the problem of finding a mutually beneficial co-operating activity and the necessary finance to carry it out.

Financing of TCDC

Thus the task before us seems to be the financial one and we should agree on this before discussing other issues. Project identification is also another important task which we may approach in a round about way through the collection of information on the capacities and requirements of developing countries or the exploration of new forms of technical co-operation. ESCAP and UNDP have already been very active in both of these approcahes and we would like to encourage them.

Administrative, legal and financial arrangements

Given that the solutions to problems of finding a mutually beneficial co-operating activity and the necessary finance to carry it out are found, we agree, that the establishment of a central mechanism for co-operation and to accelerate the promotion of TCDC is most desirable. As far as the legal and financial arrangements are concerned, we would like to take a more cuatious note.

Regarding administrative arrangement, we would like to inform this forum that as we have been actively participating in almost all areas of co-operation--and we might as well add that we are willing to intensify and diversify this undertaking in the future--Thailand does possess a central agency for co-operation, co-ordination and promotion at both national and international levels.

As staff of this organization, we are not in a position to say whether the existence of such an agency is of merits or demerits. But the fact is that, as far back as 1969, the Twentieth Consultative Committee Meeting of the Colombo Plan in Canada had decided in favour of the establishment of this kind.

We, therefore, encourage and support voluntary efforts on the part of other countries that still lack such a mechanism to set up at the national level a similar organ.

This, of course, does not necessarily mean that our own organization should serve as a prototype. We too have our own problems. To establish a central agency is easier than to gain acceptance or recognition of its roles by other authorities both within and outside the country.

There exists an information gap regarding the capacities and requirements of the co-operating partners. For this reason, we also support and value the creation of an information system at both national and international levels. The information collected should be as exhaustive as possible so that the levels of capacities and requirements could be easily visualized. The mere matching of capacities and requirements without knowing their levels or their compatibilities is, needless to say, inadequate. Secondly, the information so collected should be subject to constant review so as to keep it as up-to-date as possible.

Let us now turn to the legal aspect. We are inclined to believe that the model suggested by the report prepared by the consultant is rather difficult to put into effect. Though we appreciate highly

the efforts, endeavour and good intention put into this matter, we have found it rather difficult to reconcile with the proposed harmonization of contractual stipulations for the very reason that individual countries do vary in their legal frameworks.

More importantly, as the distinguished delegate from India had wisely and correctly pointed out, the success of the Colombo Plan in fostering co-operation among member countries could be attributed partly to its fewest possible legal arrangements. We, as a consequence, belive that the existing legal frameworks and procedures should be sufficient to cope with the complexities of legal implemenation at this stage.

We would like finally to touch upon financial arrangements. In the consultant's language "the problem of financing TCDC is another obstacle constraining its development". It is therefore suggested that "it is desirable to increase budgetary allocations for TCDC purposes. Such resources should be directed to those sectors of economic development having the highest priorities". And that "consortia for the financing of TCDC projects might be set up".

We agree with the notion that resources should be directed to economic sectors having highest priorities. But we are doubtful as to the probability of pooling resources from the developing countries given the fact that the task of mustering funds to meet their foreign exchange deficiencies and developmental requirements is already an arduous one. Perhaps, we should look up to some already existing organizations such as the Mekong Committee to carry out this task rather than to create a new pool of resources.

We would like to apologize if we have given the impression that we are all out against TCDC. Quite the contrary, our efforts and evidence in the past and up to now have indicated beyond doubt that we are but for technical and economic co-operation of this nature. What we are really aiming at is how to transform an already well-defined concept into a viable undertaking.

In the searching of extra benefit, do we not have to keep our account in balance?

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

(Translation from Russian)

The question of TCDC is of interest not only for the developing states themselves, but also - to an equal extent - for the developed ones. The issue of economic and technical co-operation in general, and the question of such co-operation between developing countries in particular, have in the last few years assumed an increasing importance. The Lime Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Non-Aligned States attached great importance to these questions. The decisions taken at the Lima Conference include some concrete proposals regarding the nature and form of TCDC.

Soviet co-operation with developing countries

One of the most vital instruments of Soviet foreign policy is economic and technical co-operation with foreign countries including developing states based as a general rule on inter-governmental bi-lateral agreements. This co-operation has made great strides since the late 1950s, and intergovernmental agreements have been concluded today with 49 states in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

The co-operation between the Soviet Union and neighbouring countries, Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey and India, inter alia, is being expanded successfully. Over the last decade the volume of economic and technical assistance provided by the Soviet Union to developing states has more than doubled and today constitutes more than one-third of the total volume of Soviet aid to foreign countries. Co-operation with some of those states has assumed a permanent character and is being implemented on the basis of bilateral agreements and treaties.

Long-term co-operation is, factually, the indispensable basis for the planning of major economic projects in developing states, and in some instances this is already taken as the basis for such schemes. This enables developing countries to tie up their current and long-term economic development plans with co-operative action, which in the last analysis brings about an improvement

in the exchange of goods and services in the framework of co-operation.

USSR is providing economic and techical assistance to developing states by installing and equipping 900 projects in various economic domains, 472 of which have already been put into service.

The total volume of Soviet technical assistance obligations vis-à-vis developing countries includes 76.4 per cent for industrial projects; this figure is sub-divided into 18.1 per cent for development of energy sources; 32.1 per cent for iron and steel; 3.6 per cent for other metals and 5.1 per cent for machine tools and metal treatment. A considerable percentage is devoted to the development of agriculture: 5.7 per cent; transport and communications: 7.9 per cent; geological surveys: 5.5 per cent; also for educational and health schemes: 3.9 per cent.

Training of national staff

A very important facet of technical co-operation is the training of nationals from developing states. For developing countries which want to pursue a rigorously independent path of economic development the acute shortage of qualified personnel is indeed a crucial problem.

The Soviet Union assists newly independent states in overcoming this shortage in various fashions:

- training at projects sites - Hundreds of construction sites have been transformed into classrooms for the mass training of senior staff, workers and foremen. For example, we trained more than 57,000 persons in India on construction sites or at work-places, more than 60,000 in Afghanistan, almost 20,000 in Iraq, 58,000 in Iran, 17,000 in Syria and 40,000 in the Arab Republic of Egypt;

- practical vocational training and courses of instruction for nationals from developing states, provided at enterprises on Soviet territory, and the training of senior staff in Soviet schools;

- the training of experts for various economic fields in institutes of higher learning, technical universities, schools and educational centres set up in various countries under Soviet technical assistance programmes. There are now more than 140 such institutions in developing states.

Almost all the major industrial projects being set up in developing countries with Soviet economic and technical assistance now include educational centres for the preparation of workers for the very job they would be performing on that site.

During the construction and operational phases of such projects (including the educational centres attached to them) set up in developing states with Soviet technical assistance, 500,000 persons have been trained in all: this figure can be broken down into: 320,000 persons trained during the construction and operational phase; 136,000 persons trained in the educational centres; approximately 20,000 persons trained at special institutes of university or high school level.

The Soviet Government, in accordance with the wishes of ESCAP member-states, decided in 1975 to set up a special educational centre for citizens of the ESCAP region, which would train between 100-150 middle echelon experts annually in agriculture, electrical energy, transport and other fields. The training period would last 3-4 years.

Last year the Soviet Union set aside 10 scholarships for the ESCAP region which would enable nationals of developing states to be trained in the USSR, but, unfortunately, the ESCAP secretariat has not availed itself of this opportunity. I should very much like to request the ESCAP secretariat to take a quicker decision in this matter.

Form and shape of TCDC

The Soviet delegation has always been, and still is, in favour of multilateral, equitable and mutually beneficial technical co-operation schemes between the developing states themselves as well as between the developing countries and others. We would like to specially emphasize the sovereign right of any developing state to determine the form and shape such co-operation will assume.

We are of the view that co-operation could, in particular, cover such matters as the joint development of raw materials including sources of energy, the regulation of the water flow of boundary rivers, the scientifically based exploitation of soil, of forest et.al.

Soviet assistance

The Soviet Union could provide technical assistance on a bilateral basis. The appropriate Soviet institutions could, in particular, assist in framing scientific recommendations concerning fuel and other sources of energy, conduct research in various economic domains (including the identification of energy source targets based on local resources available), provide additional annual scholarships for the training of national experts in Soviet scientific and educational institutions, organize trips for scientists from developing states to the USSR, but also discuss and agree with the developing countries the conditions under which modern technology and expertise could be furnished to them.

Role of international organizations

The Soviet delegation is gratified to note the role played by regional economic commissions and specialized agencies in economic and technical co-operation between developing countries on a regional basis. The Soviet delegation also attaches great importance to the expansion of technical co-operation between developing states in the framework of UNDP and other specialized agencies of the UN system.

USSR took an active part in the preparation of the report of the Working Group on TCDC. The Soviet delegation endorsed the proposal of the Working Group to establish within UNDP a special unit which would stimulate and further such assistance, and to set up a Committee of the Governing Council which would meet between sessions and consider questions related to the effective implementation of TCDC.

I should like to express the hope that UNDP will find a rapid solution to its financial difficulties and devote close attention to projects under way in the ESCAP region.

UNITED KINGDOM

My Government favours both the principle and the reality of TCDC. At a time when the developed countries are finding it increasingly hard to meet the developing countries' expanding demands for technical assistance from their own surplus resources TCDC releases what amounts to at present unexploited, additional resources which can add to the total volume of global technical co-operation.

The excellent paper of the Zagreb Institute (ESCAP/TCDC/2) provides a welcome practical focus on the country level rather than on wide ranging and idealistic prescriptions. This approach is realistic and sensible and my government supports it. As this document recognizes, the success of TCDC depends on the will and determination of the developing countries to promote it. The paper also makes a point, which is often overlooked, that economic and social systems differ as between developing countries. However, it does suggest (e.g. paragraph 27) more general lines of action which also seem worth pursuing.

Both documents ESCAP/TCDC/1 and 2 provide useful reviews of present practice; such reviews are an essential preliminary to the effective progress of TCDC. The lists of possible projects, and of existing and potential capacities and requirements draw attention to specific areas where progress might be made.

Information system

The major present constraints lie not so much in the legal, administrative or financial arrangements as in the field of information, as several distinguished delegates have already pointed out. Both documents recognize that the establishment of an international information system is important and that collection of data must begin at national level. The quality of the international information referral system will be of vital importance and it will be dependent on the adequacy of the national systems. The suggestions in paragraph 52 of ESCAP/TCDC/2 appear to merit more detailed consideration. Also a useful pointer for future action is provided by the suggestions in paragraphs 13 and 14 of this paper.

Role of TCDC

The United Kingdom Government shares the belief expressed in paragraphs 39 and 41 of ESCAP/TCDC/2 that TCDC is "an initial and indispensable element in promoting over-all economic co-operation among developing countries". In supporting TCDC we would emphasize the importance of mutual co-operation as a means of achieving self-reliance. My government believes that the developed countries have a role in this and support the view expressed in paragraph (d) on page 9 of ESCAP/TCDC/1 that bilateral and multilateral programmes should take advantage of the capacities of developing countries.

Institutional arrangements

We believe it is not necessary at the moment for developing countries to establish large new institutions designed to deal exlusively with TCDC; the need is for small central units which can be the focal point for TCDC; also needed is a systematic and co-ordinated approach at country and regional level to replace the *ad hoc* methods which have served hitherto. My government endorses the view in paragraph 44 of ESCAP/TCDC/2 that, since TCDC is at an early stage of development, complex and highly elaborate programming mechanisms would be premature and serve only as an additional constraint.

Attitudinal barrier

Both documents 1 and 2 draw attention to the constraint imposed by "attitudinal barriers" in developing countries. Because of this and because TCDC is a late contender for funds it may need special consideration. But my government hopes that it will not be artificially promoted at the expense of existing bilateral and multilateral programmes and that its place in the general perspective will not be distorted.

Financing of TCDC

On the question of finance, my government agrees with ESCAP/TCDC/2 that if TCDC is to fulfil its potential it must be given due priority by developing countries, even at some initial sacrifice; we also agree that a substantial increase in multilateral funds is unlikely. As pointed out in para. 117 of ESCAP/TCDC/2, developing countries themselves may not consider the establishment of an international fund a sufficiently important objective. However, once TCDC is duly recognized by both developing and developed countries it seems likely that adequate resources could be provided through existing channels. From reports provided for the 21st Session of UNDP Governing Council, the Specialized Agencies are alerted to TCDC and its potential and are making special efforts to use of developing country resources where this is possible, feasible and appropriate.

The proposal in para. (f) on page 43 of ESCAP/TCDC/1, on reimbursement in convertible currency, is not one which my government can support. It has already been agreed in UNDP that, inter alia, the Programme Reserve may be used to promote TCDC, and the present system makes reasonable provision for the progress of TCDC. Moreover, it is unrealistic at present to expect substantial *additional* resources from UNDP, which currently has financial problems.

UNITED STATES

I have been listening to various statements on TCDC for 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ years including the three meetings of the Working Group on TCDC, the last four meetings of the Governing Council and the last two meetings of the General Assembly. I would like to go on record that in my judgement the statement by Mr. Patel is most thought provoking, most realistic, and most balanced statement on this important, many-sided growing dimension of technical co-operation that I have yet heard. It should be reread by all and should be widely disseminated.

Zagreb paper

My delegation has asked for the floor in order to warmly congratulate the Yugoslov delegation and, through it, the Institute for Developing Countries in Zagreb for the excellent paper prepared by the Institute. The paper is not only extremely

professional but equally important and extremely practical and pragmatic, eschewing all dogmatism and strict adherence to any preconceived formula.

My delegation shares many of the views expressed in the paper and believes there are many guideposts in it that deserve to be seriously taken into account by both bureaucrats and politicians involved with TCDC decision making at the national level. The paper rightly underlines that further development of TCDC will - to a great extent - depend upon the national will of the LDC's.

Other points the paper makes that my delegation fully endorses include:

(1) The important role non-governmental bodies, especially universities and science-promoting councils and research institutes, can play in TCDC especially via twinning arrangements;

(2) A strong preference towards using the project approach preferably linked to national economic plans (in order to assure that they truly have a high priority) and preferably having the recipient country, even if it is a least developed country, participate, at least symbolically, in financing a portion of the project;

(3) A strong preference away from complex and elaborate mechanisms of all sorts that would likely only serve as additional constraints;

(4) The utility of periodically evaluating bilateral and multilateral TCDC projects while recognizing that practice and experience gained are often the best evaluation processes;

(5) A recognition that bilateral aid agreements are easier to implement than miltilateral aid agreements;

(6) An explicit acknowledgement that self-sacrifice will be required if TCDC is to take its rightful place in the TC world;

(7) The need in the first instance to concentrate TCDC resources in those sectors having the highest priority;

(8) A preference - expressed by most developing country authorities contacted - for bilateral and triangular arrangements - as opposed to setting up new multilateral funds.

For a long time now it has been a United States policy to support regionalism and Asian regional organizations that encourage it and that carry out useful development activities. While there are a number of examples of this including assistance to the Asian Development Bank, I would like to briefly enumerate the work of AID's Regional Economic Development Office, located in Bangkok that concentrates on assisting regional technical co-operation in the Asian area.

This Office has provided over $80 million of assistance to the following organizations since 1968: The Mekong Co-ordinating Committee (MCC), Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization and its educational centres: Centre for Training, Research and Graduate Study in Tropical Biology (BIOTROP), Centre for Educational Innovation and Technology (INNOTECH), Centre for Science and Mathematics; Tropical Medicine and Public Health Program (TROPMED), Centre for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture; Asian Institute of Technology; Southeast Asian Agency for Transportation and Communications; Intergovernmental Co-ordinating Committee on Population Planning; Asian Institute of Management; and Colombo Plan Staff College.

Promotion of TCDC

The promotion of TCDC has been a matter of major importance to the United States in recent years. The United States participated as an active observer on the United Nations Working Group on TCDC in 1973 and 1974; also the United States has supported the course of action taken in decisions at the 18th (with specific reservations) and subsequently at the 19th, 20th and 21st sessions of UNDP's Governing Council as well as supporting the related decision taken by the 7th Special Session.

The United States believes TCDC needs to be promoted in such a way that principal responsibility for its implementation rests with the developing countries themselves, with UNDP and other

third parties roles being largely confined to facilitative and catalytic actions combined with limited supplementary financial support such things as helping finance an information system, some training activities, etc.

In the eyes of the United States, TCDC complements other development tools, expands the resource base and will help evolve both a bigger and better technical co-operation pie that will enrich all participants in ways that will improve both self-reliance and the quality of life.

TCDC is a technique or modality not to be viewed as an undertaking essentially apart from or in competition with other developmental activities. The United States supports the view that TCDC, as described in the report of the Committee on TCDC to the 21st session of the UNDP Governing Council, is "an additional means of mobilizing the untapped resources and capacities of the developing world".

Information referral system

The United States supports the development and elaboration by UNDP of an effective information referral system covering training facilities, research and development institutions, consultative agencies, and sources of expertise. At the same time, it recognizes that this important step will come to naught unless indispensible follow-on actions are pursued by each developing country on a case by case disaggregated basis.

This system must depend to an important degree on the creation within each developing country of administrative focal points which would establish rosters of experts and suppliers, arrange legal and fiscal facilitation of resource release and generally promote the functioning of TCDC.

Role of women in TCDC

In identifying expertise within less developed countries, the capabilities and potential of women should be given full credence and their participation in all aspects of TCDC should be explicitly factored into various TCDC projects, programmes, regional discussions. In addition, the United States delegation believes the role of women in development and in TCDC deserves to be a separate agenda item at the global conference in order to assure that this important element of development is given due weight and attention.

Sources of experts, supplies and equipment

No artificial targets should be imposed with respect to LDC sources of experts, supplies or equipment. While it is important that no useful resource be overlooked regardless of its origin, the proper management of developmental affairs demands that the best and most economical resources be applied to the undertakings of UNDP for the benefit of the developing world. In this context, we look forward to the report in progress on utilization of LDC resources by miltilateral development agencies that will be presented to the 23rd session of the UNDP Governing Council as requested in operational paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 3461 of 11 December 1975.

Reservations on TCDC

It is well established that the report of the Working Group on TCDC to the 18th session of the UNDP Governing Council contained features to which not all member governments could agree. The United States was one of several such countries expressing reservations concerning certain recommendations of this report. The United States and other developed countries have repeated those reservations on four or five occasions since then including at the last meeting of the General Assembly and the last meeting of the Governing Council.

It should be recalled that the 18th Governing Council in a concensus decision "approved *in general* the final report of the working group on TCDC" and also decided "to review the recommendations contained in the final report .... in the light of experience gained in the process of their implementation". This review is scheduled to take place at the 22nd session of the Governing Council this June.

Paragraph 210 of the 18th Governing Council Report sums up the reservations of a number of

developed countries to some of the recommendations of the report that they believe would, if rigidly enforced, adversely affect the quality and efficiency of the programme, build in rigidities, slow down delivery, impinge on the sovereignty of the recipients and limit choice.

In addition, as it has stated previously, the United States is strongly opposed to any systems of preferences, quotas or so called "rights of first refusal".

On the other hand, the United States believes that UNDP should further diversify its sources of supply and procure more services from the developing countries - on a cost efficiency basis - than it has to date. It is for these reasons among others that the United States supported the New Dimension Decisions.

Role of international organizations

The United States endorses an active role by the regional commissions in the promotion of TCDC, in co-ordination with and under the leadership of UNDP and with each other, and the countries and organizations in a region. To this end, commissions should establish their own administrative units, with appropriate UNDP assistance, for regional promotion of TCDC and as part of a larger network.

In the earlier brief statements I have praised the extremely thought provoking introductory address by Mr. Patel and the excellent, practical and pragmatic report on administrative, legal and financial arrangements prepared by the Zagreb Institute.

I am afraid I cannot give equally warm praise to the report prepared by Dr. Santa Cruz on the Role of the international organizations in promoting TCDC. The report has a number of virtues and valuable insights but unfortunately it is also weighted down with dogmatism, numerous pejorative and confrontational statements and contains a number of contradictions.

Dr. Santa Cruz, for example, in paragraph 79 advocates planning but cautions that it should be in a decentralized system and "not imposed from above". However, in paragraph 93 he states that UNDP should use its powers to, and I quote, *"impel* Governments to move towards the objectives of TCDC". He would have us believe that every recommendation of the WG report is holy writ. It is not.

He fully ignores the positive accomplishments that have taken place in the five months since the Seventh Special Session, a session which was long on specific action suggestions and whose outcome represented a true concensus.

He places far more emphasis on the confrontation-plagued Sixth Special Session which saw some 19 developed countries state various detailed reservations or other qualifications at the time of the adoption of its two Resolutions. The reservations voiced then on some of the elements of a new international economic order by the United States delegation are well known and still stand.

Recommendations of the Seventh Special Session

It should be recalled that the Seventh Special Session succeeded to a considerable extent in putting aside ideological and semantic debates and in concentrating on specific issues without prejudice to fundamental political and philosophical views of individual countries or groups.

I would very briefly like to tick off a few of the major positive steps recommended by the Seventh Special Session on which major progress has already been made over the past 6 months:

1. To help LDC's with major balance of payments problems:

   (a) A special IMF Trust Fund totalling $500 million to $1 billion a year for countries with a *per capita* income under $350 was set up;

   (b) A Development Security Facility in the IMF to minimize the impact of sudden down turns in their export earnings was set up. Loans from it could easily reach $1 billion a year;

   (c) Normal drawing rights of member countries was increased 45 per cent which could total as much as $3 billion a year.

2. The United States pledged $200 million to IFAD subject to other countries pledging $800 million. Firm pledges to date total about $400 million and there is a good change that OPEC members, the EEC, and others will make sizeable pledges to get this important new instrumentality launched.

(You will recall Mr. Patel recommended that the ESCAP region should already begin discussing how it could best use this Fund including TCDC uses.)

3. At the Seventh Special Session the United States announced its generalized preferences system would go into force on 1 January 1976, and so it did. It is a system covering 2,724 tariff items. Total United States imports under these tariff positions was $24 billion in 1974 of which the LDC's accounted for only $6 billion. That figure should go up considerably over the next two years now that the preference system is operational.

4. The United States pledged $188 million to the World Food Programme to cover the 1976-1977 pledging period. This represented a 34 per cent increase over the United States contribution for 1974-1975. United States technical assistance in the food and agricultural sector doubled in 1975 and 1976 as did over-all United States Food Assistance Programmes, including the United States providing 60 per cent of the 10 million tons of annual food aid called for at the World Food Conference.

Untying aid funds

Turning to the untying issue mentioned by a number of speakers, I would like to say that some progress has been made in this area in recent years but it is a difficult area as every country - developing and developed, capitalist and socialist, democratic or other form of government - knows.

I would like to mention a few figures that might help put at least some elements of this issue in a somewhat clearer perspective:

(1) Over the past 10 years the United States has contributed $800 million to UNDP all of it untied and in convertible currency - I repeat convertible currency. I know of no strings written or unwritten on those funds.

(2) During that same period we have contributed an additional $2.5 billion in untied monies to other United Nations programmes *excluding* - I repeat *excluding* - the World Bank and the IMF.

These monies are untied and are provided to United Nations organizations none of which subscribe to weighted voting arrangements. They represent over 30 per cent of the United Nations organizations budgets for that period.

It has been stated that it is important to mobilize political will in the developed world as well as the developing world. I agree completely. I question however whether confrontation tactics will bear positive results especially when dealing with Congressional and Parliamentary systems.

It perhaps should be recalled that the *per capita* incomes of non-recipient donors to the UNDP range between $2,000 and $6,000 a year while the *per capita* incomes for recipients cover a far wider range - from $80 to $8,000 a year. It should also be recalled that many recipients of UNDP assistance with relatively high *per capita* incomes make all or nearly all of their pledge payments to UNDP in non-convertible currency that can - largely - only be used for purchases in their own countries - tied pledges, in other words. I think it could be said that the recuperation syndrome wears many faces.

The United States record in assistance and in untying is not perfect. Political realities in a democracy of the United States type definitely rule out perfection ever being even closely approached, even in the best of circumstances. I can assure you confrontational atmospheres will not help produce the best of circumstances.

Assistance to least developed countries

The United States has strongly advocated over the past three years in the UNDP Governing Coun-

cil to see that least developed countries and the less well off countries - those with a *per capita* income of under $350 - should get the great bulk of UNDP assistance during the second five-year programming cycle; indeed, that some 80 per cent of UNDP resources should be earmarked to countries with a *per capita* income of under $500. We have advocated that the better off developing countries voluntarily relinquish some or all of their second cycle IPF's. To date only two countries have voluntarily relinquished their IPF's. Taking a lead from Mr. Patel's statement, perhaps if some of the better off developing countries will choose to give up some or all of their IPF's in the name of TCDC - perhaps they will want to use the bulk of their IPF's to promote TCDC. Perhaps something along those lines should be a recommendation or a suggestion made to the global conference on TCDC from the ESCAP region.

YUGOSLAVIA

We have been listening to the statements of distinguished delegates with great interest and attention. It was both encouraging and instructive for us. Encouraging by listening how the spirit of self-reliance and the recognition of national dignity in all developing countries is going to be transformed to a real power; instructive by listening to the various experiences in solving various problems.

I do not wish to dwell upon the Yugoslav experience. Indeed we feel it would be useful to inform the participants about our stand points on some basic issues as well as to put forward some concrete proposals.

Concept of TCDC

Although the discussions on the role and concept of TCDC have been considered in UNDP for some time, and beside the fact that it existed even before this discussion took place, the statements made by different distinguished delegates made us believe that there is still room and need for some clarifications. We have experienced, on many other issues, both at national and international level, that it takes time and that the common effort is needed until a new idea or approach becomes an integral part of the existing activity.

This is the case of TCDC which comes to UNDP at the moment when the traditional pattern of donor-receiver concept of technical assistance was no more able to meet the growing demands of developing countries, nor answer to the changed situation in almost all of them.

TCDC was recognized unanimously as a necessity, but the evaluation of its real contribution to the developing countries was substantially different. Either being over or underestimated, the TCDC was just recently accepted as an integral part of UNDP and even then still as its minor part.

I would like to draw attention to the fact that TCDC should not be considered according to the data on its immediate activity nor by the number of participating countries, but mainly by the new spirit which it brings to the concept of international relations in global terms and to all international organizations in particular. This is a new context and substantial change in the position of the developing countries based on the deliberations of non-aligned countries at Cairo, Georgetown, Algeria, etc. and decisions of the sixth and seventh Special Sessions of UN (General Assembly). For UNDP as well as for other international organizations, TCDC is a new dimension which has a very important impact on the transformation both of the existing programmes as well as their organizational structure and operational methods. The sooner that is realized the better.

This regional conference has confirmed and enriched the new dimension, which is an important result to be considered seriously. Without going into details, we fully share and endorse the statement of the distinguished representative of UNESCO, concerning this matter.

Organizational problems

We are not of the opinion that the creation of a separate international organization for TCDC

is necessary; though an efficient transformation and adjustment of UNDP is desirable. There is also an immediate need for infrastructural improvements at national level. A focal point, co-ordinator, is needed to register, elaborate, promote, and co-ordinate the great number and variety of initiatives, requests and proposals.

Information system

Special attention has to be paid to an appropriate information system which is definitely the first target to be achieved at national level, for international co-operation in general and TCDC in particular. A tremendous flow of information is going on through papers, conferences, workshops, etc. and still there is a lack of information in many ways. We feel that the basic task to be fulfilled at national level would be to ensure adequate dissemination of information to the concerned (either ministries or individual institutes and organizations). Secondly, the information system should play a very active role in creating an atmosphere of reliance on the capabilities of developing countries. In third respect, information on the scientific and educational systems and institutions in developing countries is of major importance. The affirmation of universities as well as other scientific and technological institutions in developing countries is at the same time a crucial part of the reaffirmation of their national identity. That could for example promote the circulation of students and professors among the developing countries also, diverting in such a way the pressure to the developed countries (as mentioned by the distinguished delegate of Sri Lanka) and promoting one of the substantional forms of TCDC. This brings us to another vital point of TCDC which Mr. Patel mentioned. I am referring to the cultural dimension of TCDC as the very important factor with a long term impact not only on the economic and industrial growth but on the reaffirmation of national dignity and self-reliance of developing countries, based on their cultural traditions.

Four years ago we created the federal administration for international scientific, educational, cultural and technical co-operation as an independent organization of the Government, responsible as its long title says for a wide range of activities. The results achieved in this rather short period have justified its existence. We are ready to transmit all the necessary information concerning staff, working methods, etc. to all interested members of UNDP, repeating that the concrete solutions have to match the concrete situations in each participating country.

As one of the co-ordinators for the transfer of science and technology between the developing countries, Yugoslavia has prepared a register of research institutions in developing countries which we would like to submit to the conference as our modest contribution.

Financing of TCDC

We recognize the problem of financing TCDC as an essential issue. At the same time we would like to recall the already elaborated concept and philosophy of TCDC as a basis for financial solutions as well. We feel that the transformation of each international programme must start with the transformation of its financial pattern. Still we would like to draw the attention of distinguished delegates to some other possibilities:

(1) use of international funds for TCDC

(2) allocation of a part of the national budgets in developing countries for TCDC

(3) participation (and financing) by one or more developed countries.

The use of international funds for TCDC was more than modest in UNDP, although there is a rather long list of these including the Solidarity Fund created by non-aligned and developing countries. On the other hand, our experience with the reservation of a part of the national budget for TCDC is very positive. As far as the third possibility is concerned, the remarks of distinguished delegate of Bangladesh have highlighted it already. I could add only that such interest has been shown by some other countries beside the Netherlands.

Role of international organizations

The organizational pattern and institutional network for TCDC should be practical indeed so that it could serve efficiently the aims of faster development of developing countries. That means that TCDC is an element of more active involvement of developing countries in international social and economic development. Therefore it calls for the active role of both international organizations as well as developed countries in TCDC.

That is why we believe also that an atmosphere of confrontation is not preferable, although an atmosphere of pressure and frightening is even less desirable. This refers also to the so called "reservations on co-operation" which we feel is *contradiction in terms.*

The role of international organizations in the promotion of TCDC varies according to their profile as well as from period to period. It would be therefore rather difficult to make any general appraisal or general refusal of their existance and the work carried out by them. Further more the evaluation of the results of different international organizations differs from country to country.

At the present moment there are some elements which seem to be common for all of them. First of all, they are short of funds and secondly they are all revising their programmes and structures.

It is not my intention to analyse reasons of this situation but I would like to point out that such a crisis arises at the moment when the developing countries have started to play a more important role in many of them.

Is it not possible that behind the visible causes of the crisis, and intentions to dramatize it more than necessary, is the desperation of those who are losing the control over and the possibility of the selfish use of international organizations?

However, the developing countries need an institutional network of various organizations as a necessary democratic procedure to propose, evaluate and make decisions on issues vital for their development in general. So, although we all have critical remarks, we have to declare that almost all of them played an important role in our own development and provided an important help to all of us.

The number and scope of international organizations has been growing with the needs of countries in different fields. Maybe many of those needs could be met even more efficiently without creating any organization at all and definitely without the new ones on international level. Some existing organizations could be restructured and enlarged to undertake the new demands and tasks, etc. Any how, we have a situation as we have and we have to face it realistically. It means that no one could disappear easily neither one could be declared as unncessary.

On different occasions we are witnessing just the contrary. Representatives of each organization are trying to convince itself and the rest of the world of the necessity to reduce international organizations but not the particular one they are representing. There are evident conflicts and over-lappings among various international organizations in evolving their appropriate activities. However, there have been also many co-operative ventures undertaken jointly by many of them such as, for example, the organization of this meeting which we highly appreciate and urge for the future.

Instead of establishing special task forces for investigations on this matter, I would like to invite all members and the staff or all international organizations, with no exception, to make efforts on abstaining from "the vanity fair" we have been witnessing during the past three decades. The reason for that is not our embarrassment, but rather the fact that for this vanity fair they mobilize and engage a great deal of time and manpower with no effect for the member countries. Finally it creates financial obligations which are not the part of the regular programmes. The figures I am referring are all but small, and the money definitely could and should be better used.

If we could put this simple principle in practice, I am sure that a great deal of difficulties could

be overcome, the programmes could be more flexible as well as more realistic and comprehensive.

Still, this is just one side. The other of same importance, or even greater, goes to all of us and represents the political will to adjust the international organizations to the real needs of member countries.

We have carefully listened to the educative speeches of the representatives of international organizations although I cannot but say that it should be the other way around, namely that the member countries are those who should advise and instruct the international organizations on their activities.

As far as TCDC is concerned there is plenty of room for each and every international organization to exercise its activities without competition, without fear of overlapping, and without bad feeling that the prestige of some of them is at stake.

The role of UNDP has been clearly established not only by the decisions and resolutions of the appropriate UN political bodies but more so by the very virtue that UNDP is an international organization dealing with over-all international technical co-operation. The role of regional economic commissions clearly derives from their leading position in the region as far as social and economic problems are concerned. At the same time, the role of specialized agencies flows out from their sectoral activities and responsibilities. Therefore let's join our efforts in building up such a network of international organizations which could match and answer our common needs and goals.

STATEMENTS
BY
REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTES

U.N. CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD)

Since its inception in 1964, UNCTAD has been associated with the work undertaken by the developing countries themselves, the General Assembly and regional economic commissions leading to the formulation and implementation of an integrated global system of economic co-operation among developing countries, of which TCDC is an important component. I would like to give a brief account of the efforts carried out by my organization to translate into concrete action the relevant recommendations in this field.

UNCTAD is a small organization. Its limited resources and the need to provide assistance to the greatest number of developing countries in several and very diverse fields have naturally oriented our organization to devote a large proportion of our activities to sub-regional, regional and interregional projects of technical assistance. Of the total amount spent on UNDP-financed projects executed by UNCTAD about 50% is incurred on inter-country projects. In 1968, a special programme on trade expansion and economic integration among developing countries was established within the UNCTAD Secretariat and became one of its substantive division in 1971. Co-operation among developing countries constitutes an area where UNCTAD not only plays a crucial role but has also a unique position within the United Nations system, being the only organization where an important division is exclusively dealing with this matter.

The activities undertaken by UNCTAD in the field of economic co-operation until recent years have been largely concentrated on schemes of economic co-operation or integration among developing countries, since as many as seventy developing countries or territories are participating in regional integration or co-operation groupings. Their combined population represents nearly 40% of the total population of developing countries, and they account for about three-fifths of the total gross domestic product of this category of countries.

More than 70 documents were prepared on economic co-operation among developing countries in such matters as, commercial policy, prospects for trade expansion, techniques of trade liberalization, payments arrangements, institutional aspects of economic integration, effects of reverse preferences, the role of multilateral financial institutions in promoting regional integration, planning for industrial co-operation, the distribution of costs and benefits of economic integration, multinational shipping enterprises, producers' co-operation for primary commodities exports, etc. Most of these studies were prepared by specialists from developing countries. Also twelve meetings (essentially expert groups and seminars) organized by UNCTAD have covered a wide range of specific problems arising from economic co-operation among developing countries.

In the technical assistance field, our organization has assisted alone or in collaboration with regional economic commissions, FAO, UNIDO and the UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre most of the existing schemes in their co-operation efforts. So far UNCTAD has undertaken about 35 technical assistance projects in the field of economic co-operation among developing countries mostly financed by UNDP.

In the ESCAP region, at the sub-regional level, UNCTAD has assisted the ASEAN, RCD and the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation in their co-operative efforts.

At the regional level, UNCTAD has participated together with ESCAP in the formulation and implementation of some arrangements involving several Asian countries. Examples of these are the Agreement, entered into force in December 1974, by which a Clearing House was established among six developing countries (Bangladesh, India, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) and the so-called Bangkok Agreement signed in July 1975 by seven Asian countries (Bangladesh, India, Laos, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand). Experts and consultants from other developing regions have participated in the assistance provided in connection with these two agreements. Also through direct contacts organized by

UNCTAD, the Executive Secretary of the West African Clearing House visited the Asian Clearing Headquarters at Tehran.

At the inter-regional level, UNCTAD participated in the preparatory work leading to the GATT Protocol relating to Trade Negotiations Among Developing Countries. The Protocol entered into force on February 1973 among eight participating countries and has since been ratified by the other countries except for two of them. Four Asian developing countries signed the Protocol (India, Pakistan, Philippines and Republic of Korea) and Bangladesh, Iran and Sri Lanka have shown their interest in acceding to it. UNCTAD is also participating in the implementation of the Action Programme for economic co-operation among non-aligned countries in the field of trade, transport and industry.

Important changes in recent years have added a new dimension to the prospects of co-operation among developing countries: on the one hand the enlarged industrial base of the more advanced of the developing countries is permitting them to expand and diversify their exports not only to developed but also to other developing countries and, on the other, several other developing countries have considerably increased their import and financial capacity as a result of sizable foreign exchange surpluses. The combined effect of these two factors could enhance a better international division of labour among developing countries and provide both an increase and room for intensified economic co-operation among them in the field of production, investment, trade and monetary and financial matters.

UNCTAD is well aware of these changes and is working to the full advantage of them in its activities. It is giving even more emphasis in its work programme to the activities related to economic co-operation among developing countries. An expert group meeting on economic co-operation among developing countries was held in Geneva from 27 October to 4 November 1975. Its recommentations were transmitted to the Third Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 which met at Manila; many of them were incorporated in the resolution on economic co-operation among developing countries adopted by the Ministers of the 77. It was also decided in Manila to convene in Mexico City in September 1976 an intergovernmental working group of interested developing countries for preparing the details of the programme for economic co-operation. For this purpose, they should be assisted, among others, by UNCTAD. Among the possibilities that could be considered for the promotion of economic co-operation among developing countries would be a strengthening of the role of UNCTAD including the establishment of a Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries. The function of this Committee could be to consider measures to provide, as and when requested, suport and assistance to developing countries in strengthening and enlarging their mutual co-operation at sub-regional, regional and inter-regional levels.

In the General Assembly's recommendations as well as in the resolution adopted in Manila, the concept of collective self-reliance in the sense of ensuring greater independence from the developed world is present. TCDC is undoubtedly a *sine qua non* condition to implement these recommendations. By definition, economic co-operation projects not only involve a degree of technical assistance to be provided from one or several developing countries to other developing countries but, at the same time, they provide the best framework to develop further that type of assistance as a natural outgrowth of reciprocal interests.

In the field of trade expansion and economic integration, developing countries have shown in the past to have the capacity fully to co-operate among themsevles by way of technical assistance in such activities as economic integration policy, theory and evaluation, institutional and legal framework, commercial policy, including trade liberalization techniques and common external tariff regimes, customs and tariff problems, origin rules, process lists, multinational negotiations, fiscal incentives policy and monetary and financial co-operation, investment policy, export promotion,

technology policy, commercial practices including dumping and state trading.

UNCTAD has included in some new projects of technical assistance submitted to UNDP an allocation to give financial support (by covering travel and subsistence costs) to those efforts undertaken by developing countries on regional secretariats in providing at their expenses experts to other governments or regional institutions of developing countries. This may be one of the forms to expand TCDC. I would like to reiterate UNCTAD readiness to continue to participate actively in the efforts aiming at strengthening TCDC.

U.N. OFFICE OF TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION (OTC)

U.N. OTC attaches great importance to TCDC as an important element in the establishment of the New International Economic Order and an essential step toward the achievement of collective self-reliance of the developing countries. In the ultimate analysis, it involves sharing of skills, experience and knowledge among the developing countries. This in the initial stage may be just one way of supplementing the resources available to the developing countries, but will in course of time acquire its own dynamism and will make the participating countries aware and confident of the use of their own resources in achieving accelerated economic development.

From our standpoint as Participating and Executing Agency, the promotion of TCDC would involve first the increased use of resources available in developing countries as inputs in the technical assistance projects executed by the United Nations and also the initiating and implementation of specific plans and projects contributing to TCDC. The Working Group on TCDC has addressed several recommendations to the Participating and Executing Agencies, specifically regarding the utilization of expertise, sources of equipment, consultancy services and training facilities available in developing countries. I would like to say a few words regarding our efforts for increased utilization of such inputs in the projects executed by the United Nations with particular reference to ESCAP region.

Recruitment of experts from developing countries

We have generally been able to increase the number of experts recruited from developing countries. In 1974 out of the total number of experts in the field, about 30% were from developing countries, while out of the total number of experts initially appointed during the year almost 35% were from developing countries. In this, the share of ESCAP region was 30% and 26% respectively. There is thus a clear need for increasing the efforts at recruitment of expertise available in the region.

Various measures have been taken to increase the share of developing countries in the experts to be recruited. The rosters of experts with the UN's Office of Personnel are being revised to include more information on the candidates available in such countries. Regional offices are being established in addition to those already existing in Geneva and New York. The regional office in Asia will be set up in Kuala Lumpur and should be operating soon. This will make it possible to make direct and continuing contacts with governments and other recruitment sources, for systematic prospection of candidates from the region. Also the developing countries are being requested to set up national recruitment services along the lines of those in various European countries to handle expeditiously the requests made by the UN and to locate, screen, and propose suitably qualified candidates for specific openings established under this programme.

Use of training facilities

The utilization of training facilities available in developing countries has been generally satisfactory. The total UN fellowships placements and the participants studying in developing countries

amounted to about 60% of the total in 1974. The share of the ESCAP region in this is about 26%. ESCAP's share seems low, but it is still lower if only the fellowship placement is considered. In view of the potential facilities available in the region there is undoubtedly a considerable scope for increasing the utilization of training facilities.

Equipment

Regarding the procurement of equipment and use of sub-contracting facilities from developing countries, the trend in recent years has also been upward, though the proportion of such utilization is still quite low compared with the total. In 1974, such utilization amounted to about 3% of the total; in 1975 it increased to 6.3%. The share of ESCAP region increased about 8 times between 1974 and 1975, but still remained only about 20% of the total of developing countries.

Information gap

In general, UN's rate of utilization in the UN executive inputs of experts and training facilities available in developing countries has been higher than the average for the UNDP-financed inputs as a whole. However much still remain to be done. One of the main difficulties in increasing the use of such resources has been lack of information about their availabilities. In order to obtain such information at the shortest possible time we had requested all the Resident Representatives in developing countries to furnish such information in such areas as development planning, public administration, natural resources, transport, statistics, social development, population, etc. A few replies have been received and the information supplied has been utilized in recruiting of experts, fellowship placements, etc. However, the information provided is still scanty. In this situation, the crucial role of the Information System being set up by UNDP becomes obvious. There is no doubt that the increase in available information that will result from such a system will provide further impetus to increased utilization of the resources available in developing countries.

Revision of rules and procedures

In pursuance of the General Assembly Resolution, we are currently revising the procedures governing the purchase of equipment and award of contracts in developing countries, since one of the constraints on their increased utilization is the existing rules and regulations. Increased efforts are being made to locate prospective contractors and vendors in developing countries. Local purchase of equipment and materials for UN-executed projects is also being encouraged.

Examples of TCDC projects

Turning to output-oriented aspects of TCDC, I would give a few examples of specific project activities undertaken by the UN. Apart from the regional projects, UN has tried to develop inter-institutional links by assisting in the creation of the network of institutions in developing countries for the exchange of technical information and programme management know-how. Examples are the research and training centres for community development, the institutes for research and development in crime prevention, the network of institutions participating in research and training in regional development anchored by centres like the Centre for Regional Development in Nagoya, Japan. UN has assisted in initiating and developing a number of regional institutions in various fields and has also provided assistance to projects initiated and developed and for the most part being implemented by developing countries themselves. Examples of the latter are the transport projects of the East African Community, Trans-African Highway and Asian Highway. These projects have a very large component of local officials from the respective region and only a few international experts. Efforts have also been made to utilize facilities available in other developing countries. For example, a Malaysian firm had been awarded a sub-contract for a dredging feasibility study for the tin-tungsten project in Burma whose personnel have been sent for pre-operational training to Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia. I would also like to mention UN assistance to the International Centre for Public Enterprises in Yogoslavia whose main objective is the creation

of capabilities within the developing countries in the areas of training, consultancy and research which seem to be directly relevant to TCDC.

One of the ways in which TCDC can be made more meaningful for the developing countries is to link it to the immediate problems facing them. The five priority areas identified by ESCAP seem to be a good basis for initiating TCDC proposals. UN has given full support to ESCAP's efforts in this connexion, particularly, in the field of energy development, development of appropriate technology, multinational export credit insurance etc. We will continue to do so in future.

Role of international organizations

I would like to make a few remarks about the possible role of the international organizations including the UN for the furtherence of TCDC. Tha main burden of promoting TCDC at a regional level will fall on ESCAP and other regional economic commissions. However, UN like other Participating and Executing Agencies can help in pushing it beyond the regional confines, since the main objective of TCDC, which is to build collective self-reliance among developing countries as a whole, should not be lost sight of. International organizations can assist in maintaining links among the regional institutions and national institutions in different parts of the world. Secondly, they can assist in the development of facilities in all developing countries so that the basis for genuine co-operation among them can be provided. This should include the least developed countries who stand to gain the most from the successful operation of TCDC. Thirdly, the international organizations can use their own funds in the promotion of TCDC. They can be used in providing foreign exchange component when required to play a catalytic role. UN has only a modest amount available under its Repular Programme, but we will make efforts to use part of it for such purposes. UN also has a large pool of interregional advisory services which, in view of their experience and knowledge of the condition of the developing countries, can be utilized in providing information about the capacities and needs of various developing countries. They can also be used to assist developing countries in negotiations, in concluding agreements regarding TCDC. It is also proposed to formulate and implement TCDC projects specifically benefiting the least developed countries.

Emphasis on experts, equipment and sub-contracting

I would like to touch briefly on the remark made by Mr. Dubey on the role of international organizations in promoting TCDC. It was mentioned that there has been too much emphasis in the reports of the Participating and Executing Agencies on the recruitment of experts, placement of fellowships, use of sources of equipment and subcontracting facilities. In my opinion, one reason for this is because specific references have been made to this aspect in the Working Group's report and recommendation, in the General Assembly Resolutions, during the inter Agency meetings and so on, according to which the Participating and Executing Agencies have been asked to give it special attention and importance. Since the recommendations are quite specific providing policy guidelines and since the results are readily measurable, it is possible that this aspects has received too much, even undue, attention of the Agencies.

I suspect that there is also another reason. There is admittedly scope for increasing the use of expertise, training facilities, subcontracting facilities, etc., generally available in the developing countries in the development projects executed by the UN system; this utilization is constrained by various factors. There is no doubt that the current emphasis on TCDC has forced the international organizations to do some rethinking on these aspects. To that extent the increase in the utilization of resources from developing countries is the reflection of what has been done to remove these constraints. I also submit that the increased use of resources from developing countries will create an environment of self-confidence and self-reliance among the developing countries which is so vital for successful operation of TCDC. From this stand

point, it is hoped that the considerable efforts put in by Agencies have not been in vain.

Collective self-reliance

To put this matter in proper perspective is really the beginning of what the international organizations especially the Executing Agencies should do to promote TCDC. As Dr. Santa Cruz has pointed out, the success of TCDC depends not only on the utilization of the technical resources available in developing countries, but also on the purposes and the types of projects in which they are used. This is where the results to be achieved from such operations assume special importance. By definition, such results should lead to the achievement of the "collective self-reliance" of the developing countries as a whole, which is an essential step towards the achievement of the New International Economic Order.

Many of the regional and subregional projects now under operation have been designed to meet this objective. In the Asia and the Pacific region, UN and ESCAP have been involved in the implementation of many such projects. The centres for training and research in development planning, public administration, regional development, statistics, social welfare and development, the projects for offshore prospecting, the Mekong project, the projects in the fields of population and human environment are examples of what represent the joint endeavours of the countries of region to achieve "self-reliance". Some of them may not be considered TCDC projects in the strict sense of the word, since some of the inputs still have to be acquired from developed countries. It is hoped that they will eventually become successful examples of TCDC. Projects in other fields like transfer of technology, transport and energy, in which we have given full support to ESCAP and will continue to do so, are good examples of TCDC.

Furtherance of TCDC

An executing agency like the UN should be able to do much more in the furtherance of TCDC. The burden of developing TCDC projects at the regional level will fall mainly on ESCAP and the regional economic commissions. The international organizations should be able to look beyond the regional confines and promote TCDC on an inter-regional and even international basis. The agencies can do this because of their experience and knowledge of their specific fields on a global scale, and also because of the "impressive human and technical resources at their disposal". In fact since the beginning of technical co-operation, the agencies have attempted to apply their experiences in one country to another and thus inevitably to provide linkage on a global scale. For the problem is not co-operation among countries of the same area, because this is already taking place in some form or another. The ultimate objective should be to link countries like Argentina, India and Nigeria in different continents in some common field of endeavour. In recent years, this kind of kinkage has assumed more concrete forms. One example is the interinstitutional links among the national or regional institutions in various fields. There is the possibility of increasing such links much further than what has taken place. There is no reason why close co-operation should not develop between ACDA and CAFRAD. The attempts to create various interregional and international institutions for the benefits of developing countries is another. The activities in the fields of integrated rural development, regional planning, appropriate technology, urban problem, energy development, population problem which are receiving a great deal of emphasis in recent years - all will involve TCDC in some form or another. It is hoped that more efforts will be made to intensify such endeavours not only among the countries and institutions of a region, which is important for itself, but what is more important for the agencies, among countries and regions on a global scale to bring together the developing countries of the various regions in order to assist in the solution of common problems.

Another way in which the agencies can promote TCDC is by assisting in providing facilities in all the developing countries so that there exists a basis for genuine co-operation. Even the least developed countries, who stand to gain the most from TCDC, should be able to participate in the mutual exchange of experience, knowledge and skills. This will remove the present distinction

between donor and recipient countries and will be an important factor in the achievement of TCDC. The Regular Programme of the UN has, as its main objective, the development of the least developed countries and is doing its best in this regard by concentrating on projects and other activities benefiting these countries. Some of these projects have already enabled some countries to provide such co-operation on a mutual basis.

It is also proposed that the UN Regular Programme should devote part of its modest resources directly to promote TCDC. UN team of inter-regional advisors in various fields can help by providing linkages among the various countries (which they are already doing), but also by assisting countries in negotiation of agreements etc. regarding TCDC. It is also hoped that specific projects will be undertaken with the exclusive objective of promoting TCDC.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO)

Over the years ILO has been making use of the facilities and services available in developing countries for purposes of technical assistance to other countries. In fact, almost from their inception, ILO's technical co-operation activities have been characterized by this type of TCDC efforts. This is the use of services and facilities more or less of the traditional kind and is increasing. In doing so the ILO has been conscious of the fact that it was contributing to a fuller conception of technical co-operation.

ILO's decentralization policy has enabled it to give TCDC greater attention than it would have been possible otherwise. Because of increasing responsibilities given to it, the Regional Office in Bangkok has been able to assist to a considerable degree with the recruitment of experts, with the placement of fellows within the region, and with the procurement of equipment from sources within the region. It is expected that the ILO's decentralization policy will not only continue, but will be further strengthened and in this process so will ILO's contribution to TCDC.

Past contribution to TCDC

In speaking about ILO's contribution to the promotion of TCDC one cannot overlook other activities which have also served as vehicles for this purpose. Over the years there have been innumerable gatherings of experts and specialists from within the region to share experiences and thus enrich one another's developmental efforts. One of the first efforts of ILO to provide technical assistance bore the hallmark of TCDC. This was about 25 years ago when ILO called together from within the region experts on technical and vocational training to discuss their common problems and to share their experiences. The office which came into being to serve the cause of technical and vocational training, and which was the forerunner of the present Regional Office, was known as the Asian Field Office for Technical and Vocational Training, with the emphasis on the word "Asian".

Current efforts

ILO's current efforts to promote TCDC include four regional activities, all of which are being financially supported by UNDP. They are the Asian Regional Team for Employment Promotion, the Asian Regional Team for Labour Administration, the Asian Manpower Skill Development Programme and the Planning and Administration of Special Public Works Schemes for utilizing appropriate technologies. In each of these projects our objectives are to seek out the essential Asian experience, to strengthen it in whatever manner necessary, and then to make it available for the benefit of other developing countries in Asia. Thus, these projects contribute not only to TCDC but to collective self-reliance as well.

A special regional project

At the request of the Asian Labour Ministers Conference last year, the ILO will shortly bring together a team of Asian specialists which will travel in the region, assisting Labour Ministries

and related institutions to determine the kinds of capacities which can be utilized for the benefit of other Labour Ministries. The word 'capacities', as used here, applies to institutional, individual and other services. The enquiry should centre around those preoccupations of Ministries of Labour which have come to be regarded as their hard-core activities. Some of these are industrial relations and manpower services, using the two terms in their broader connotations, occupational safety and environmental health, social security, labour statistics, etc. We feel that the eventual programmes of action which will result from this feasibility study will have a very pronounced TCDC orientation and will strengthen ILO's technical co-operation effort. We also feel that the identification of capacities and needs will result in a wider use of existing institutional facilities thereby ensuring greater value for past and current inputs.

ILO's involvement in TCDC

In much of ILO's technical co-operation activities, enployers and workers organizations are directly or indirectly involved. In fact there is a specific agreement between UNDP and ILO in this regard. Thus ILO's involvement in TCDC also ensures the involvement of these social partners in development.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)

FAO has been actively co-operating with UNDP for some time in carrying out the various resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the UNDP Governing Council on the subject of TCDC.

FAO's role as a neutral international agency in promoting and sustaining inter-country relationships in the execution of regional projects or studies has been particularly effective. This is particularly true with respect to research and training projects and campaigns against pests and diseases. Apart from this type of assistance, FAO's role in the promotion of TCDC has been mainly fourfold: (1) increasing the use of experts, equipment, consulting firms and research and training institutes from the developing countries; (2) facilitating direct sharing or exchange of technology, training and research facilities between developing countries through bilateral or group country arrangements; (3) assisting in the transfer of financial resources from relatively affluent developing countries, particularly oil-producing and exporting countries, to support technical assistance and investment programmes in other developing countries; and (4) development of research and training activities and market adjustments on a regional, subregional or other group country basis.

FAO has made only limited use of consulting firms or equipment from the developing countries. Several factors account for this; the most important being sustained pressures and canvassing by firms and institutes in the major donor countries, lack of foreign exchange and relatively inexperienced management of firms and institutes in developing countries, and lastly and perhaps most important, the Executing Agencies and the recipient countries themselves have shown a marked preference for experts, equipment, and institutes from the developed countries.

The main activities in agriculture in which direct co-operation has already proved feasible are (1) ***agricultural and livestock research and experimentation*** involving joint planning and allocation of research experiments on crop and animal breeding, soils and water use, mechanization and pasture and range management under similar climatic and land capability conditions; co-ordinated research on and development of aquaculture and exchange of research personnel; (2) ***agricultural education and training*** involving establishment in different developing countries of academically excellent centres for advanced study in specific fields and sharing of training facilities at these centres; awards of stipends and fellowships at established agricultural, forestry and fisheries training institutions in developing countries to trainees from other countries, and exchange and loan of teachers and trainers; (3) *pest and disease control* involving joint campaigns for destruction

of locust or other similar epidemics and manufacture and exchange of vaccines for animal health programme; (4) *sharing of technical staff and equipment;* and (5) *trade promotion and joint production planning* involving joint planning for agricultural adjustments in competing fields.

FAO has also established a *Current Agricultural Research Information System* (CARIS). At present, the exercise is limited to the African Region. Thirteen countries are participating. For each institute, research centre, and experiment/research station in the 13 countries, information is compiled describing the zones covered, facilities, training programmes, special equipment, computer facilities and other special facilities. FAO has also made a preliminary inventory of research facilities on a worldwide basis and has compiled a worldwide bibliography of technical publications, journals and reports on the output of research; the first volume of which was published early in 1975. Further, a survey is being undertaken through the assistance of Senior Agricultural Advisers/FAO Country Representatives to help determine the technical assistance capability which could be utilized in programmes of TCDC.

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)

I should like to present briefly our experiences related to the Asian context covering the main fields of UNESCO's competence. I regret that there is no reference at all to any of them in the consultant's paper. In science, I may in particular mention two programmes: Regional Seismological Network which interlinks the warning systems in Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea; and Regional Co-operation in Basic Sciences which promotes, in Southeast Asian region, exchange of research scientists and linking of research and training institutions. In mass media, the Asian Broadcasting Centre at Kuala Lumpur has significant elements of TCDC.

Our experience has been longest in education and is exemplified in the Asian Programme of Educational Innovation for Development which was specifically designed as a TCDC effort. The General Conference of UNESCO gave approval to it and UNDP stimulated its evolution as a TCDC operation first by preparatory assistance and then following it up with substantive support. The Programme was designed co-operatively with the Member States in Asia and its focus was defined by them as relating education to the developmental goals set by the Member States for themselves.

Seventeen Member States in the region are participating in the Programme. They were invited to offer the services of their national institutions of research and development, or their programmes and projects, for association with the Programme. All 17 Member States have offered their national centres. In all there are 43 such centres affiliated to the Programme. All activities under the Programme are organized by and through these affiliated centres. They form a regional network.

The focal points at the national level have been created in the form of National Development Groups for Educational Innovation. These National Groups, constituted by their Governments, stimulate national efforts in educational innovation, organize information collection and dissemination functions in the national context and serve to link the national activities with the regional activities. At the regional level, a regional mechanism has been created called the Asian Centre of Educational Innovation for Development. It is not an institution in the usual sense of the term; rather, it is a resource base and a facilitator. It facilitates inter-country exchanges; assembles and disseminates, on a continuing basis, information about capacities and needs; and on request, provides technical and advisory services either directly or by drawing on the resources of affiliated national centres.

At the beginning of each year the Chairmen of the National Development Groups and other high level persons in the Government get together in a Regional Consultation Meeting in which they re-

view the past year's activities and determine the next year's programmes.

The *methods* or modes of operations of the Asian Programme are determined by its objectives, by the needs of the Member States as defined by the Regional Consultation Meeting, and by the nature of the educational activities to be jointly carried out. The outcome of each activity is judged in terms of its immediate application within the plan of work of the participating Member States The modes of operations which so far have been tried out are:

(1) *Inter-country transfer of experiences.* This is effected through inter-project and inter-country study visits and on-the-job training, mobile training team for assisting a country in organizing its own training programme; and personnel exchange among projects.

(2) *Development meetings and training workshops.* These comprise subregional workshops; technical working groups; field operational seminars; and national seminars.

(3) *Development and dissemination of materials and information,* which comprises co-operative development of materials and exchange of materials; inventories and case studies of significant national programmes; and the activities of National Development Groups.

The financial and other support to the Asian Programme reflects, in our view, an important principle that TCDC is essentially an integral part of international co-operation. The Programme derives its support from the International Community, UNDP, UNESCO and UNICEF; from the voluntary contributions of developed countries; and from the contributions in cash and kind made by the participating Member States.

Interregional links are now building up. Africa and the Arab States have shown interest in the Asian Programme. A feasibility study has been made with reference to Africa and submitted very recently to the Conference of African Ministers of Education at Lagos.

Out experience with the Asian Programme now spans over four years. Admittedly, this is not a long period for a development programme, but is sufficiently long to give one the "feel" of the needs and urgencies which underlie TCDC. It is on this basis that I should like to offer a few general observations:

(1) TCDC is a natural evolution of international co-operation for development and an integral part of it. It gives a dynamic dimension to the existing programmes of bilateral and multilateral co-operation. It should not be treated only as an adjunct or even a supplement. To the extent that the objective of every international development effort is to enhance a country's capacity for self-reliant growth, TCDC should progressively become a component of all such programmes.

(2) Just as development is no longer equated with economic growth (narrowly defined), so TCDC should encompass the whole field of development, both social and economic, and should not be limited only to certain forms of economic relationship. Purely economic relationships tend to become relationship amongst unequals; it is only in the wider context of total development that true reciprocity and complementarity can be realized.

(3) Given such a comprehensive base for TCDC, the methods to be used and the forms of organization would have to be diverse and innovative, as stressed in the report of the Working Group. The equation of technical assistance with experts plus fellowship plus equipment may no longer hold in that particular form or combination (it does not seem to hold even for the classical form of technical assistance). For example, instead of individual experts, the expertise of an institution or a consortium of institutions might be found to be more appropriate in a majority of TCDC operations. For the same reason, donor-recipient relationship is less than meaningful in TCDC.

In the act of giving, the so-called donor is also enhancing its own capacity. A good example of this would be any research and development institution.

(4) Innovativeness and diversity of methods have to extend also to how programme and projects of TCDC are developed. They must be endogenously conceived and locally controlled. Demonstration programmes and projects externally designed are less than likely to demonstrate and prove TCDC just as they have fallen short in other forms of assistance.

(5) In TCDC the focal points at the national level should be in the Government and not an external body. Assistance to the Governments would be needed from the international community to develop the focal point functions, and in order to prepare themselves for providing technical assistance to other developing countries. This would apply particularly to training programmes. Developing countries in Asia have at least two decades of experience with development planning and with external assistance programmes. TCDC focal points can most appropriately be created by the Governments in their administrative structures to ensure articulation not only with external assistance programmes but also with the national development plans.

(6) At the regional level, TCDC implies a new role for regional programmes of the international community. This should mean the involvement of all agencies in promoting TCDC within their respective fields. So far it must be admitted that this involvement has not been realized on as extensive a base as would appear desirable. Attention is invited in particular to paragraphs 16 and 36 of the Working Group's report, which recommend high priority in the allocation of resources to regional programmes aimed at TCDC. As far as we know, this important recommendation has yet to be implemented. At this stage, it is more important to create a wide base for TCDC in different agencies of the international community and mobilize their active participation in and contribution to the effort than to establish new administrative mechanisms which may have a constricting effect, even if they are conceived in good intention for "co-ordination".

(7) While the main responsibility for development rests with the Member States themselves, the international community's mandate for promoting such development must necessarily include active and visible measures for facilitating TCDC, not limited to a few forms of assistance cast in the traditional mould. Attitudinal barriers can be more easily lowered if the effectiveness of TCDC is demonstrated in a concrete way, and equally important, if the international community's programmes and procedures relfect their concrete interest in promoting and strengthening TCDC.

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO)

Standardization on a worldwide basis of procedures, practices, and ground supporting services and facilities constitutes the primary objective of ICAO in promoting safety, economy and regularity of international civil air transport. Inherent in pursuing this objective is technical cooperation and coordination amongst neighbouring States, irrespective of their stage of development. The planning and implementation of air navigation services and facilities by each State and Territory around the world are tasks on which States and Territories, whether having provider or user interests, or both, have to collaborate, if they are to be assured that the resulting infrastructure of ground supporting services and facilities is an integrated international civil air navigation system that is adequate for at least approximately the next five years.

ICAO'S work in fostering TCDC aimed at achievement of the foregoing objectives consists of various types of activities associated in the main

to the network type of services and facilities, such as the provision of air traffic, meteorological, search and rescue, aeronautical information and ground to air and point to point communications services, and radio aids to navigation. These activities include: the fielding of individual or teams of experts to assist or advise developing States in the resolution of their implementation problems and in coordinating their implementation action, where appropriate; the convening of informal meetings, seminars and workshops aimed at finding solutions to problems of coordination and alleviation of deficiencies of a regionwide or sub-regional scale; and, in collaboration with UNDP, the launching of technical assistance projects having a sub-regional, regional or inter-regional impact.

A good illustration of UNDP-assisted projects executed by ICAO is the establishment in Bangkok of a Regional Civil Aviation Training Centre which offers courses in the various civil aviation disciplines, including pilot training. Since its formal establishment in 1964, extensive use of the Centre, under various fellowship schemes, has been made by some 30 developing States, not only from Asia and the Facific, but also from Africa and the Middle East. For example, during the period 1973 to 1975, some 200 fellowship awardees under UNDP/ICAO sponsorship and coming from 18 developing countries undertook their training at CATC Bangkok in such courses as commercial airline pilot, management of air traffic and communications services, radio maintenance, search and rescue services and others. From the very beginning ICAO takes cognizance of the advisability of advanced technical training being carried out on a regional basis not only on grounds of economy, but of greater importance, that the student undertake his training in an ambiance similar if not identical to the circumstances under which he is to apply his earned skill.

The continually advancing developments in the civil aviation industry, in terms of expansion and the introduction of more sophisticated equipment, obviously bring about a parallel demand for increase in skills in the quantitative and qualitative context. During 1975, UNDP and ICAO have launched projects for the expansion of the Regional Civil Aviation Training Centre to cover radar training and the administration and regulation of flight operations. At the same time, a Regional Civil Aviation Manpower and Training Survey was carried out in Asia and the Pacific and the work of the four-man survey team will shortly be completed.

By and large, the results of the survey reveal that the requirements for manpower and training are hardly being met at this time and that the overall situation within the next few years is bound to become more and more acute, if timely concerted action is not taken by all concerned. On completion of the survey, ICAO plans to submit for consideration by States a regional training plan geared to meet the training needs of the Asia and Pacific Regions to the extent considered realistically possible over the period 1976-1979. The plan will indicate the possible measures which can be taken to considerably expand the training facilities available within Asia and the Pacific, the criteria to be used for such expansion or establishment of additional facilities, and the basic and special or advanced training disciplines to be catered for by expansion or establishment of new facilities.

Even at this time, ICAO has already initiated negotiations with the UNDP Asia Bureau for the urgent establishment of two additional civil aviation training centres in Asia and the Pacific. The first is intended to cope with increasing difficulties faced by administrations in training headquarters personnel to the required level to plan and manage the infrastructures. Courses envisaged to be conducted by this Civil Aviation Staff Academy include accident investigation, personnel licensing, aviation medicine, airworthiness regulations, airspace planning, master airport planning and design, etc. The second is to establish a South Pacific Regional Aviation Training Centre, mainly to cater for the relatively modest training needs of Fiji, Western Samoa, Cook Islands, Tonga, British Solomon Islands and the Gilbert anf Ellice Islands.

Another activity currently under negotiation with UNDP calls for a regional economic survey in Asia and the Pacific aimed at determining the contribution that civil aviation can make to the development of the national economies of States

in these regions. A similar project is currently underway in Africa and, already, a considerable number of mutual help projects have emerged, including the identification of some 12 possible tourism projects - of which 3 are inter-country proposals, and some other 38 possible projects. A similar study will be of immense value to the developing States of Asia and the Pacific and note should be taken in this connexion of two complementary studies already agreed upon in principle by certain Member Governments of the Southeast Asia Transport and Communications Agency (MAlaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand) aimed at the formulation of an air freight development plan for the States concerned, both on a national and inter-State basis. The States concerned are keen on an early launching of the project under the aegis of ICAO and negotiations are under way to commence the survey by mid-1976 under a funds-in-trust scheme.

The second project contemplates determination of the practicability and the viability of adoption by the SEATAC States, on a national or multinational bais, of the use of the self-autonomous operating agency concept as a means of meeting their commitments under Article 28 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, concerning the provision of the requisite air navigation services and facilities. An obvious advantage to meeting their obligations through the establishment of a common operating agency lies not only in raising the efficiency of the services on a regionwide basis through the use of private industry management and operating methods and techniques, but that its adoption also opens the door to a number of co-operative arrangements, such as the flight testing of navigational aids, the pooling of spare parts supplies, provision of advanced training, uniform application of landing and en-route charges, use of a common aeronautical information publication and others.

A proposal also before the UNDP Inter-regional Division aims at extending assistance to two developing countries in setting up airport pavement strength evaluation teams, using very advanced technologies. Once established, these two teams will be available to all developing countries to carry out pavement evaluation projects at low cost.

A number of other projects calling fot TCDC are under various stages of consideration by ICAO and the States concerned, all of which are mainly oriented towards promotion of safety, the orderly development of civil air transport and economy and efficiency in the provision and operation of the required infrastructure. The examples already outlined provide an ample indication of the diversity and the scope of ICAO's activities in promoting TCDC.

In retrospect, ICAO's efforts at promoting technical co-operation among its 134 Member States have had a fair amount of success. Some of the reasons for this are perhaps circumstantial in that ICAO operates in the relatively narrow field of promoting the safe and orderly development of international civil air transport, where the requirements are sufficiently well defined and exacting to the point that the problem areas can be easily isolated and their causes tracked down to their roots.

It would also be true to say that many of the impediments to TCDC are perhaps not quite relevant to ICAO. Certainly one thing that does not exist among ICAO's Member States is a communications gap - neither does the lack of a focal point to promote TCDC at the national, regional or global levels, nor that which has been referred to as an "attitudinal barrier". Over the last 42 years, ICAO has worked diligently and unremittingly at overcoming these impediments, perhaps again, simply out of necessity, since for ICAO to have perpetuated them will have, indeed, impaired its goals.

The matter of financial constraints has also been mentioned as a possible impediment to TCDC. In this regard, ICAO's recognition of the principle that the burden of providing the services and facilities essential to flight safety should quite rightly be shared between the users and the providers in accordance with the guiding principles established by the Council of ICAO has gone a long way towards overcoming the problem.

What I am really saying is that our experience in ICAO indicates that, given a well-defined problem, a solution could surely be found.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

(Translation from French)

WHO does not appear along with its sister organizations in the document prepared by Dr. Santa Cruz. Yet TCDC is a field in which WHO has taken considerable interest for a long time: one of the continuing objectives of WHO is to involve the expertise and resources of the developing countries to the meximum extent in the solution of their health problems and to help them to attain self-sufficiency in the field of public health as quickly as possible.

Promoting TCDC

One of the main features of WHO policy in developing health manpopwer has been to promote co-operation among the countries in each of the six WHO regions. Activities include courses, seminars and regional and interregional workshops held in developing countries and conducted by national experts. For example, a workshop on the training and utilization of traditional midwives was held recently at Manila with participants from the Southeast Asia and Western Pacific Regions and under the direction of a Brazilian expert.

Similar training activities are carried out in the fields of nutrition, mental hygiene, family health, works medical services, health statistics and infectious diseases through roving seminars whose directors and participants are nationals of the host country.

Training centres assisted by WHO have been set up in several regions and are almost wholly staffed by nationals of countries of the region. These centres provide instruction in methods and techniques, public health matters, malaria control, and health education. The centre in Fiji, for example, provides for the health manpower needs of the South Pacific islands.

At the post-university level, eight regional teacher training centres set up with WHO assistance have proved to be particularly effective. Four of them are in this region - in Australia, Iran, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The students are recruited from developing countries and, after completing their training, are responsible for setting up national teacher training centres in their own countries. This has been accomplished in India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and South Viet-Nam and their courses are open to nationals from neighbouring countries.

WHO has also broadly decentralized its research programmes with a view to making better use of the skills available in developing countries and has had increasing recourse to research institutes located in these countries through agreements on subcontracting which apply particularly to inter-country projects or operational research perhaps conducted in the institutions of one country on behalf of others.

In addition, WHO is undertaking a series of "profiles" of projects, programmes and countries concerning health matters. These profiles describe an activity, its aims, its budget, its preformance and its evaluation. In this way, for example, an anti-malaria project being carried out by a given developing country can have access to a large number of profiles of other projects which will supply it with information on the staff employed and the government services, institutions and subcontractors involved in similar projects carried out by other developing countries as well as on the successes achieved and the difficulties encountered. The work is well under way and WHO believes that it will be a useful contribution to TCDC.

Utilizations of experts

Concerning the utilization of expertise, 51 per cent of the WHO professional staff assigned to projects in developing countries are nationals of developing countries and 41 per cent of the total professional staff employed by WHO are nationals of such countries. The exact percentages for this region are certainly very high.

Contributions to TCDC

WHO is in complete agreement with the author of the document presented by the secretariat in believing that, although the above-mentioned figures and activities represent a substantial contribution to TCDC, they do not give rise to a new philosophy of TCDC or give evidence of innovatory commit-

ment in TCDC. We are fully aware that it is a matter of contributing towards the realization of self-sufficiency by the developing countries but not yet a matter of actual assistance to a common effort for the technical and economic development of those countries.

Information referral system

However, activities such as those that have led to undertaking the profiles mentioned above represent a substantial contribution to the information referral system proposed by UNDP, and all the data thus collected are obviously available to all the countries and organizations concerned. WHO is now concentrating on creating practical inter-country and regional mechanisms for solving common health problems, such as the adaptation of health techniques to local and regional conditions, and on organizing inter-country meetings among member States and bilateral and mutilateral donations, in order to carry out a review of the activities in progress and to ensure the co-ordination of new approaches. A notable initiative is the proposal made by the Regional Office for Southeast Asia to the countries of that Region to ratify a Health Charter for Asia. One of the aims of this charter, once it is ratified, is to establish close inter-country co-operation in dealing with common health problems that are given high priority and in channelling the bilateral and multilateral resources available for this purpose.

WHO's role

WHO realizes the increasing importance of the multilateral character of the United Nations system of development aid, involving the much greater participation of the developing countries, and of putting this system to serve the developing countries' own efforts with a view to mutual co-operation, the system acting not only as a technical catalyst but also as a "broker". The practical implications of this role of "broker" for programmes that are essentially bilateral require conceptualization and elaboration. Although WHO has not yet devised programmes in which it would play this role of "broker", facilitating bilateral co-operative arrangements in health matters, it is giving this aspect increasing consideration with a view to ensuring its integration in the activities of its headquarters, regional offices and representatives in the countries. It is ready to co-operate in this regard with UNDP, ESCAP and the United Nations agencies and institutions. It has moreover received a mandate from its Executive Council which adopted a resolution requesting the Director General to continue to promote TCDC with diligence. The regional committees of the three WHO Regions, which cover the ESCAP countries, had previously adopted similar resolutions.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU)

ITU has rendered considerable technical assistance under UNDP to the countries of the ESCAP region. During the course of the last decade, technical assistance rendered included establishment of national institutions, provision of additional infrastructure facilities and building up several institutions to assist the region in achieving self-sufficiency in telecommunication technology.

After assessing the national needs of the developing countries it was considered necessary as the first priority to establish telecommunication technical training schools primarily at technician and junior engineers levels. Such national institutions were established in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, South Viet-Nam, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Papua New Guinea and Fiji (regional centre). Some of the institutions are in the process of development whereas many others are in operation. Altogether they have trained more than 25,000 technicians and many have extended their facilities to neighbouring countries.

It was realized from the very beginning that while it was necessary and possible to establish national institutions at the level of technicians

and junior engineers, it was not possible to set up higher level training centres in fields of specialized technology in every developing country. In pursuance of this policy, three advanced institutions have been established - one for training in the technology of satellite communication at Ahmedabad, another for advanced level training in telecommunication at New Delhi and the third for frequency spectrum management training at Singapore. Although established under the country IPF of India, the first two institutions are being considered as regional in nature since the Government of India from the very beginning agreed not only to throw them open to trainees from the other developing countries within the region but also from developing countries of other regions. This is an example of TCDC and the Government of India has already rendered considerable assistance by awarding large number of scholarships for trainees at these institutions. Besides these, "Test and Development Centres" are necessary and expected to be established in many developing countries for creation of a pool of competent engineers and scientists for preparing development plans, writing of specifications, accepting testing, calibration and repairs of equipment, etc.

Infrastructure

The development of telecommunication infrastructure for subregional and regional facilities was lagging behind in most parts of this region. Although in East Pacific Asia considerable development took place with the establishment of undersea coaxial cable systems such as SEACOM, TRANSPAC and COMPAC resulting in the establishment of a viable communication network, in South-East Asia and South Asia, there was a very big gap in providing the necessary infrastructure for telecommunication services. It was not possible for the HF radio systems to accommodate the ever-growing traffic needs with the result that, when the global satellite communication services were opened for commercial traffic in late 60s, the countries in the region needed costly satellite earth station facilities for the purpose of regional and international telecommunication services. However, ITU under UNDP undertook a feasibility study for establishing a viable regional network and with the active participation of 14 countries in the region are implementing the Asian regional telecommunication network extending from Iran to Indonesia. This regional network, primarily consisting of radio relay systems, coaxial cable systems and in some areas troposcatter systems, when completed, as hoped by the end of 1978, would provide a modern regional infrastructure and establish regional telecommunication links to provide all services such as telephone, telex, data, leased services at economical rates. The 14 countries participating in the current programme are: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Republic of South Viet-Nam and Thailand. Recent discussions have indicated that Burma and the Philippines are interested in joining the 14 countries to establish the regional network.

In the implementation of the Asian regional network the concept of TCDC has been put into practice on a very vast scale. The UNDP input of three experts services has been supplemented by the developed countries namely: Japan and the Netherlands. Other resources needed for the Asian network have been provided by developing countries in the region such as India and Iran - India by providing the entire microwave equipment for Sri Lanka approximately costing $3 million, and Iran by providing the capital needs for the microwave system development of the Asian telecommunication network in Afghanistan valued approximately at $11 million.

Institution to serve common needs

The completion of the Asian telecommunication network by 1978 would need a regional institution for the continued co-ordination, planning, development programming and assistance for successful operation of the network. This question has been considered by the countries of the ESCAP region and at the Intergovernmental Working Party of Experts, held from 17 to 23 February 1976, the Constitution of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity has been finalized. This Constitution is expected to be established by the end of 1977 and would provide the needed support

for the future development and successful operation of the Asian network and encourage TCDC on a big scale.

Future common needs

The development, co-operation and establishment of regional institutions such as the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity would extend considerable assistance in the future for undertaking new projects in the infrastructure development of telecommunication services. In the not too distant future the utilization of a regional satellite for telecommunication, and especially for exchange of television programmes on "Asia Vision" programme, would be needed. Such future development can be undertaken with the assistance of ITU and backstop of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity.

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (ADI)

ADI, which was set up in 1964, has been assigned the task of organizing short-term training programmes for government officials of the member countries of ESCAP. We feel that we can claim to be a good example of technical co-operation among developing countries because all of our activities are concerned with the problems of TCDC. Participants to our training programmes come mainly from the developing countries of the region and we conduct most, if not all, of our training programmes in collaboration with training institutions of the developing countries. We plan, for example, to organize some 24 courses this year at the regional, sub-regional and national levels. We hope to be able to train some 500 officials of the various member governments during 1976.

In order to finance our operations, among the 10 largest contributions that we received from member governments, 6 are from developing countries. During the past 2 years, we have been working to re-orientate our programmes to make them more relevant to the needs and priorities of the governments of the developing countries in the region. We have commissioned a number of country studies and followed this up by holding national seminars in order to have the guidance of scholars and practitioners in the countries concerned about the possible contributions that ADI might be able to make.

We also serve as the Secretariat of the Association of Development Research and Training Institutes of Asia and the Pacific, an association of some 80 institutional members in the ESCAP region whose main objective is to promote joint research and training activities and closer contacts among the various research and training institutions within this region.

The above are just some examples of our role in the promotion of TCDC. But our programme is now being affected seriously by the UNDP financial crisis. We feel, and we hope the member governments of ESCAP also share the feeling, that ADI is doing something of some use to the governments as we have been working for more than a decade now in this particular area of TCDC. In order for us to improve the quality of our services and to expand the scope of our activities, we certainly need more help. We would like first to address our plea to the governments of the developing countries in this region. If governments could consider enhancing contribution to the operations of ADI, we shall be able to serve better in the area of TCDC. Our plea is also addressed to the governments of the developed countries, both within and outside the region, many of whom have been making very crucial contributions to our operations in the past. We would like to express our sincere gratitude, but we also hope that the governments of the developed countries will also consider increasing the magnitude of their assistance to ADI. This can be done both in terms of increasing the absolute level of assistance given to us in the past, providing us with assistance from those governments who are as yet to contribute to the work of ADI, and also to untie some of the strings attached to the contributions made to us.

We hope we are doing something you like. Please help us in doing more and doing it better.

UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (UNCRD)

I think the purpose of this meeting is to provide a perspective of TCDC in the ESCAP region. In this context I would like to present the small contribution we are making.

I have missed to find the name of my centre among the institutions introduced in the report by the consultant. Our centre, like others listed, is an institution specialized in training and research in regional development. I came here to participate in this meeting, but at the same time, I am taking this opportunity to attend as a lecturer the Seminar organized by ADI. This is one form of co-operation we are providing as part of TCDC.

What I would like to point out especially is that we have learnt a lot through our programme. Our functions are four, research, training, information and advisory services, in each of which we are developing our programme on the basis of the real participation of the fellows as well as countries. Regional development is a new idea of how to effectuate co-ordination over disciplines and over hierarchical system. The most effective way of providing training is to base the programme on case studies, taking up the case of the regions in the countries one after another. Fellows are invited from all the countries in ESCAP region, and they work together on the planning exercise of the region. In fact the commitment of the fellows are remarkable; they produce 1,500-page report each time. I would like to mention this as a typical example of how TCDC is possible.

Our belief is that there is enough capacity to produce planning within the nation itself. What we are concerned is to draw out this capacity in such a way that the experts in the developing countries are convinced of their self-reliance. This also adds to the international solidarity of experts.

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