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UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for
Development

Governing Council

Third session
9 December 2008
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Report of the Third Session of the Governing Council of the APCICT

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Summary

The Third Session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development was held on 9 December 2008 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

The Council noted with appreciation the activities undertaken by the Centre and endorsed its proposed Annual Work Plan.

The Council noted with deep appreciation the generous contribution towards financial and institutional support from the Government of the Republic of Korea through the Korea Communications Commission and Incheon City Government.

Based on the deliberations at the Session, the Council made the following recommendations:

1. to focus on the regional and national roll-out of the Academy on strengthening the capacities of national training institutes through a training of trainers approach with concrete follow-up programme as opposed to a piecemeal approach;

2. to develop guidelines for national training institutes on the steps required, issues to consider and resources available for the national roll-out of the Academy;

3. to translate into different languages and customize the Academy modules to suit national contexts to enhance their impact;

4. to develop new Academy modules focusing on the applications of ICT in (1) disaster risk management; and (2) climate change, and to undertake further enhancements of the current modules to include a more in-depth coverage on ICT applications and interoperability;

5. to develop multi-channel content delivery of the Academy, including through the online the APCICT Virtual Academy, a CD-ROM-based as well as a print-based training material to reach a wider audience, and

6. to enhance e-Co Hub by designing a community of practice around the topics of community e-centres and interoperability.

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSIONS

A. Opening of the session (Agenda Item 1)

1.   The Third Session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT) was held at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on 9 December 2008.

2.   On behalf of Mr. Shigeru Mochida, Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP, Mr. Xuan Zengpei, Director, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) welcomed the members of the Governing Council of APCICT for the period 2006-2009 attending the Third Session of the Governing Council of APCICT, and expressed his appreciation to the Information and Communications Technology Authority of Mongolia for hosting this Session.

3.   He recalled two important events on ICT for development organized in Bangkok, Thailand in November 2008. One was an expert group meeting on the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society to identify major bottlenecks and opportunities in building an inclusive and people-centered information society in Asia and the Pacific. The second event was the first session of the Committee on ICT. Both meetings, hosted by ESCAP and participated by APCICT, concluded that limited individual and institutional capacity in ICT continues to be a major challenge in addressing the digital divide and mainstreaming ICT in various socio-economic sectors. The meetings confirmed the urgent need for ICT capacity building particularly for policymakers at the national, provincial and local levels.

4.   He remarked that the participants at both meetings expressed their great appreciation to APCICT for the contributions made in addressing the capacity building gap, and, in particular, commended APCICT on the development of its flagship programme, the Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders. He stated that several countries have requested a national rollout of the Academy and that a formal agreement be signed with the Centre. Member States have also requested that the Centre

develop a module on ICT and disaster risk reduction in view of the disproportionate economic and social damage caused by natural disasters in the region.

5.   He also said that member States at both meetings valued the dedicated online knowledge sharing network and platform developed by APCICT, named the e-Collaborative Hub (or e-Co Hub), which aims to enhance the learning and training experience of policymakers, educators and project managers by providing easy access to relevant resources and by making available an interactive space for sharing knowledge and experience on ICT for development.

6.   In concluding, he stressed the importance of the Governing Council in guiding and advising APCICT at this critical juncture as the Centre move on to its expansion phase. He expressed appreciation to the Governments of the Republic of Korea, Papua New Guinea and Macao, China for their contributions and strong support for the Centre. He also assured members of the Governing Council of ESCAP's commitment to building capacity on ICT for development through APCICT.

B. Attendance

7.   The session was attended by nine representatives of six members of the Governing Council, namely Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Republic of Korea and Thailand. A list of participants is included in Annex 1.

C. Election of officers (Agenda Item 2)

8.   The Council elected Mr. Nyamkhuu Tsoodol, Director General of Policy Planning Department, Information and Communications Technology Authority, Mongolia as the Chairperson and Mr. Gadiraju Venkata Ramaraju, Senior Director, Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, New Delhi, India as the Vice-Chairperson.

D. Adoption of the agenda (Agenda Item 3)

9.   The Council adopted the following agenda:

1.   Opening of the session

2.   Election of officers

3.   Adoption of the agenda

4.   Report on the administrative and financial status of APCICT

5.   Presentation of work undertaken by APCICT since the Second Session of the Governing Council

6.   Proposed future activities

7.   Country paper presentations

8.   Confirmation on the date and venue for the Fourth Session of the Governing Council

9.   Other matters

10.   Adoption of the report

II.   SUMMARY OF THE DELIBERATIONS

11.   The Council had before it the following documents: (A) Report on the administrative and financial status of APCICT; (B) Presentation of work undertaken by APCICT since the Second Session of the Governing Council and (C) APCICT's Work Plan for 2009 (D) Handouts on APCICT's work programmes. The Director of APCICT made three presentations.

A.   Report on the Administrative and Financial Status of APCICT (Agenda Item 4)

12.   The Director's presentation had five aspects including: (1) a briefing on the mandate and mission of APCICT; (2) an overview of the Centre's administration and management and the challenges faced; (3) the financial status of the Centre; (4) APCICT's outreach and knowledge dissemination activities; (5) and issues for the Council's consideration.

13.   The brief overview of APCICT included details of its establishment, APCICT Governing Council members, and the Centre's three-fold mission of providing ICT

training programmes, ICT advisory/consulting services on building human capacity, and research on ICT human resource capacity building.

14. The overview of the Centre's administration and management showed APCICT's organigramme and provided information on the mechanisms used to cope with the limited staff and, at the same time, optimize its operational capacity to develop and implement an extensive work programme. Mechanisms such as annual workshops, weekly staff meetings and an internal knowledge management system retained institutional memory and promoted a culture of knowledge sharing and documentation. A staff development programme has also been put in place to motivate staff to excel in their work.

15. The summary of the financial status of the Centre highlighted contributions from the host country and from other member States. The Government of the Republic of Korea had agreed to provide US$ 10 million (US$ 7.5 million in cash and US$ 2.5 million in in-kind) to cover the institutional and operational costs of the Centre for its first five years of operation. The financial contributions received in 2007 was US$ 1.5 million and in 2008 US$ 1.44 million. The Government also agreed to provide office space and three non-reimbursable loan experts to support the technical cooperation activities of the Centre.

16. In addition, through the Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund, the Government of the Republic of Korea contributed US$ 200,000 in support of an APCICT project on "Provision of ICT human capacity-building training programmes through the APCICT Virtual Academy," which started implementation in June 2008.

17. Furthermore, the Government of the Republic of Korea provided in-kind contributions in support of numerous training activities of the Centre through the Incheon City Government and the Ministry of Information and Communication, which was amalgamated with the Korea Communications Commission in 2008. The Centre also received in-kind contributions from other government agencies, SK Telecom and Shinhan Bank.

18. Contributions from other member States were also reported. The Government of Macao, China, provided US$ 5,000 towards institutional support for the Centre in 2007,

and another US$ 5,000 in 2008. In addition, the Government of Papua New Guinea contributed US$ 20,000 in 2008.

19. APCICT's outreach and knowledge dissemination strategy noted a wide range of online and offline activities implemented to promote the importance of capacity building in ICT for development, and communicate the Centre's efforts and activities aimed at bridging the human resource gap. All APCICT news and events, knowledge resources, its programmes and projects, and its partners are featured on the APCICT website, attracting over 11,500 unique visitors from 132 different countries between June and November 2008. Moreover, APCICT news, events and knowledge resources have been featured in a number of ICT and development websites and ICT for development email discussion lists.

20. APCICT also promotes ICT capacity building through media. Since its inception, APCICT has issued 33 press releases in English and Korean, 18 of which were released through the ESCAP News Centre. And there have been 43 known news items in English and 28 news items in Korean on APCICT-related activities from the United Nations News Centre, United Nations agencies, partner organizations and independent media groups in the region.

21. The Director of APCICT and staff members have maximized their opportunity to promote the importance of ICT capacity building and the work of the Centre at events and training workshops. Outreach and promotion of the work of APCICT have taken place during formal presentations and speeches, and in the course of one-to-one or small group networking during the various events.

22. The Council noted with deep appreciation the generous contribution towards financial and institutional support from the Government of the Republic of Korea, particularly the Korea Communications Commission and Incheon Metropolitan City Government.

23. Regarding contributions towards institutional support of the Centre, Mr. Xuan Zengpei, Director of IDD, ESCAP, stressed the importance of broadening funding sources and appealed to the Governing Council members to urge their respective governments to provide annual financial contributions to the activities of APCICT.

B. Presentation of Work Undertaken by APCICT since the Second Session of the Governing Council (Agenda Item 5)

24.   The Director presented the programme activities of APCICT since the Second Session of the Governing Council, held in April 2007 in Incheon, Republic of Korea. The presentation was structured along the four key recommendation adopted by the Council at its Second Session.

25.   The Council was informed that the Centre followed the recommendations of the Council at its Second Session and developed a comprehensive ICT training curriculum entitled the "Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders," comprising eight initial stand-alone but closely interlinked modules that cover basic to advanced topics of ICT for development. The steps taken to develop the Academy modules in an inclusive and participatory manner were outlined. They included the conduct of needs assessment surveys, organization of an expert group meeting, peer reviews, and review and evaluation of the modules at three sub-regional workshops before its launch and the organization of the first regional training of trainers workshop on 16-28 August 2008 in Cheonan, Republic of Korea. The workshop was attended by 41 participants from 21 different countries.

26.   Subsequently, the focus of the Centre's efforts has been on the national and sub-regional roll-out of the Academy in partnership with national and regional training institutions and government organizations. The Director reported that APCICT has signed agreements with the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology of Afghanistan, the Information and Communications Technology Authority of Mongolia, and the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC). In Mongolia, the first national Academy will be held from 10 to 12 December 2008, and SOPAC is planning to hold 14 national Academy workshops over the next two years. Similar agreements are under way in many other countries, including Armenia, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. Furthermore, the Academy modules are being translated into different languages. The Russian version will be launched in April 2009 and the Bahasa Indonesia version will be launched in May 2009.

27.   The Council was notified of other training activities organized by APCICT on e-government. They included: (1) The High-Level Seminar on e-Governance on 5-6 May 2007 in Kathmandu, Nepal, in partnership with the Asian Development Bank Institute and the National Information Technology Center of Nepal; (2) The Second Regional Training Workshop on Planning, Designing, Implementing, and Managing e-Government: Key Issues, Case Studies and Lessons Learned, on 8-12 October 2007 in Incheon, Republic of Korea, with the United Nations University – International Institute for Software Technology (UNU-IIST); (3) The First International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance, on 10-13 December in Macao, China, with UNU-IIST and the Center for Technology in Government of the State University of New York; and (4) The Pacific Islands Forum Officials' e-Government Workshop on 17-31 Oct 2008 in Incheon and Seoul, Republic of Korea, with the Pacific Islands Forum, the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MOFAT) and Sungkyunkwan University.

28.   The design, features and achievements related to the second recommendation adopted by the Council to develop an e-Collaborative Hub (or e-Co Hub) were presented. The e-Co Hub together with a revamped APCICT website was launched on 16 June 2008 at the OECD Ministerial Meeting. The resources available on the e-Co Hub aim to support trainers and educators in building ICT for development capacity and assist policymakers in making informed decisions. The e-Co Hub also allows for sharing of resources and case studies, and engaging in discussions on ICT for development issues. The e-Co Hub is the most visited section of the APCICT website with over 4,600 unique visitors and 23,360 page views since its launch in June 2008.

29.   On activities related to strengthening the capacity of community e-centres, initiatives implemented by APCICT and the ESCAP Secretariat were reported. At APCICT, the Academy Module 1 on the Linkage Between ICT Applications and Meaningful Development has a section dedicated to telecentres and case studies on CeCs in the region. The Academy Module 7 on ICT Project Management in Theory and Practice is a useful resource for project managers, including CeC managers and utilizes CeC projects as a hands-on practice. The e-Co Hub has a space dedicated to the sharing of resources, case studies and experiences on CeC projects and programmes. At the ESCAP Secretariat, activities include establishment of knowledge networks of telecentres,

a project with ADB to build the capacity of national institutions on the establishment of telecentres in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal, and the development of a telecentre online database.

30.   The Council was informed about APCICT's initiatives to promote and provide ICT training for women and other marginalized group including people with disabilities. In view of the low number of female representatives nominated from governments in the region, APCICT collaborated with the State Ministry for the Empowerment of Women of Indonesia, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family of the Republic of Korea, the International Telecommunication Union, the Women's e-Biz Center of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum and the Asian Pacific Women's Information Network Center in conducting specialized training workshops targeted at women. A total of 82 representatives from governments, academia and civil society from 18 countries participated in the training workshops. Moreover, the Academy Module 1 on the Linkage between ICT Applications and Meaningful Development has a section dedicated to gender equality; the APCICT Virtual Academy (AVA), an online distance learning platform for the Academy scheduled to be launched in 2009, will be utilized to encourage the participation of female policymakers in undertaking relevant Academy modules; the e-Co Hub has a space for sharing of resources, case studies and experiences on gender; and the participation of women as session leaders and facilitators at events has been proactively encouraged at APCICT-organized events.

31.   To improve access to ICT for people with disabilities, APCICT, together with the Social Development Division of ESCAP and the Korea Agency for Digital Opportunity and Promotion, held the Regional Workshop for Enhancement of ICT Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities from 29 September to 2 October 2008 in Incheon, Republic of Korea.

32.   The Council was notified that 16 capacity building training/workshops involving 768 participants from more than 40 countries, of whom 269 are female representing government officer, policymakers and academia were organized by APCICT since the Second Session of the Governing Council on a number of ICT for development topics including disability, e-business, e-government, gender, information security and

production of ICT statistics. APCICT also organized a major global forum entitled "Building an Inclusive Internet Economy: Developing Countries Perspectives," that coincided with the OECD Ministerial Meeting in June 2008. The Global Forum channeled the perspectives of developing countries to the OECD Ministerial Meeting on the implications of the Internet economy for developing countries. The event was attended by over 150 participants from 35 countries.

33.   The Council was briefed on the Centre's activities that built the capacity of future leaders through the ASEAN Future ICT Leaders Programme, a collaboration with ASEAN University Network, MOFAT and Daejeon University. APCICT also has an Internship Programme that is aimed at enhancing students' knowledge of the application of ICT in socio-economic development, and providing practical experience in implementing ICT for development projects. Interns from the ASEAN Future ICT Leaders Programme and from various universities have contributed significantly to the work of APCICT, particularly in conducting research for the e-Co Hub and the Academy modules.

34.   The Council congratulated APCICT on the good progress made towards a number of significant achievements within a short period of time, despite its limited human resources. In particular, the Council:

- Commended the participatory and inclusive approach the Centre took for its flagship programme "the Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders."
- Recognized the added value the Academy contributes to the ICT human resource development agenda.
- Noted APCICT's e-Co Hub as an important mechanism for knowledge sharing and collaboration towards promoting lifelong learning and strengthening ICT for development capacities.

35.   The Council emphasized the importance of language diversification in terms of 1) translation of the Academy modules in various local languages to increase readership 2) customization of the content to increase its relevancy in the national context.

36.   The Council also commented that 1) Interoperability and 2) ICT applications in fields such as ICT for Health and telemedicine as relevant and emerging topics that the

Academy modules could incorporate in the future.

37.   The representative Republic of Korea has conveyed the message that the Korea Communications Commission and Incheon Metropolitan City Government are very pleased with the great milestones that the Centre has achieved since its inception and are also proud to be the host agencies of the Centre.

C.   Proposed Future Activities (Agenda Item 6)

38.   The Director presented the APCICT Work Plan for 2009-2010, which was guided by the Statute of APCICT, the recommendations of member States at the previous GC sessions and the First Session of the Committee on ICT of ESCAP on 19-21 November 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand, as well as the lessons learned of the Centre during its initiation and development phases. APCICT is currently at the end of its development phase and is about to commence the expansion phase.

39.   Some key lessons learned on how to enhance impact of capacity of the Centre based on experiences to date are as follows: (1) A programme approach in implementing APCICT's mandate and work programme is desirable as opposed to an adhoc activity-based approach (or piecemeal approach), which has limited impact and lacks continuity; (2) APCICT training programmes should be based on specific needs and requirements of the target beneficiaries; (3) APCICT needs to consult closely with governments in identifying suitable nominees for the Centre training programmes; (4) APCICT needs to support governments in ensuring that required follow-up actions are implemented; (5) There is strong demand from participants for a platform to share their experiences and to learn from each other; (6) The localization and customization of training course contents are critical in maximizing impact of APCICT's programmes; and (7) Partnership with national institutions to carry out ICT capacity building programme is essential to enhance national ownership of the programme and expand reach to more people.

40.   The Centre's integrated programme covering training, research, advisory services and knowledge management was presented. Under training, APCICT will continue to expand the Academy through its national and regional roll-out plan in collaboration with

strategic partners which are linked with central-, state- and local-level governments and are committed to building ICT capacities. A framework for the national roll-out of the Academy, including initiation, planning, implementation and evaluation, was explained. APCICT's South-south cooperation strategy was also mentioned. The Centre has been in continuous dialogue with UN Economic and Social Commission of Africa, which is undertaking customization of the Academy for the African-version launch scheduled in February 2009.

41.   The Council was also briefed about the development of the APCICT Virtual Academy (AVA). It is the Academy's online distance learning platform, designed to minimize disruption to the participants' work environment by enabling them to study the materials at their own pace. AVA is currently being developed to ensure that all the Academy modules are easily accessible online for download, re-use, customization and localization. In the first quarter of 2009, AVA will be launched encompassing various functions including virtual lectures, learning management tools, content development tools and certification. A CD-ROM version of AVA will also be produced for those with no or limited Internet access.

42.   APCICT plans to undertake other training activities related to the development of the Academy. These will include a second regional training of trainers workshop; a workshop for Module 8 on Developing Diverse Funding Structures or Options for Funding ICT for Development; a workshop/training with the advanced curriculum of Module 7 on ICT Project Management; an ICT for Disaster Risk Reduction Training/Workshop; an ICT for Climate Change Training/Workshop; and a national-level workshops/trainings on the Academy.

43.   The Council was informed about APCICT's knowledge management strategy. It includes strengthening the Digital Partnership Network (DPN) that brings academics, development practitioners, policymakers, researchers and trainers together to share knowledge, learn from each other and collaborate in the area of ICT for development; enhancing and extending the service of the e-Co Hub in providing a platform for a community of practice to advance the ICT for development research agenda; and

ensuring that AVA and the e-Co Hub are closely interlinked with the aim of fostering a continuous learning environment.

44. The DPN was launched on 8 October 2007 at the Second Regional e-Government Training Workshop in Incheon, Republic of Korea, with registrations from 21 countries. It has now grown to include 240 individual members from over 30 countries. To promote and facilitate research activities, APCICT will use the e-Co Hub as a platform for DPN members to discuss and identify research areas, coordinate joint research work, peer-review research work and disseminate research results.

45. The Council was notified about the APCICT Briefing Series on ICT for Development and APCICT ICT for Development Case Study Series. The Briefing Series aims to provide at-a-glance information of key ICT for development agenda for high-level policymakers or stakeholders. The series will include: (1) conventional research papers, assessment and survey reports, and publications and wide range of knowledge products (in different media formats); (2) extract of policy component in each module of the Academy for policymakers; and (3) analysis and compilation of best practices and case studies that draw out challenges and lessons learned. The Case Study Series aims to: (1) serve as reference to policymakers who are supporting or planning to support ICT for development projects; (2) help new projects avoid common pitfalls and use strategies that have been demonstrated as successful through case studies; (3) generate opportunities for networking, collaboration and implementation of new solutions; and (4) serve as a mechanism for knowledge sharing and dissemination. Each issue will contain case studies that focus on one or two ICT for development themes. APCICT will proactively engage with strategic partners in developing and co-publishing both of these series.

46. Lastly, APCICT reiterated its commitment to: (1) working together with partner institutions in customization of the Academy for national roll-out; (2) organizing training of trainers at regional and national levels; (3) providing a platform for virtual community of practices of ICT for development; (4) creating a network for all national training institutions for ICT for development; and (5) compiling and disseminating best practices and case studies in the field of ICT for development. In supporting the Centre's commitment and activities, issues for the Council's consideration included: (1)

contributions to institutional support through a joint trust fund administered by the United Nations; (2) partnership for project implementation for the national roll-out of the Academy; and (3) designation of national experts and senior personnel as focal points for identifying, collecting and documenting best practices.

47. On the delivery and outreach of the Academy to national and provincial government officials regionally and globally, the Council agreed with the Centre's strategic direction to strengthen the institutional capacities of National Training Institutes through a training of trainers approach, as opposed to APCICT delivering training on an individual level. The Council is of the same opinion that this direction will contribute to the effectiveness, relevancy and sustainability of the Academy programme. To aid this process, the Council recommended the development of guidelines for National Training Institutes on the steps required, issues to consider and resources available for the national roll-out of the Academy.

48. In terms of content delivery, the Council supported the Centre's continuing efforts in multi-channel delivery via the APCICT Virtual Academy and CD-ROMs to reach a wider audience.

49. At the regional level, the Council concurred with the Centre's plan to develop two new modules as additions to the existing eight modules of the Academy. The two new modules will focus on the applications of ICT in (1) disaster risk management; and (2) climate change. The Council also recommended the following:

- Increase the accessibility of the Academy modules to senior policymakers by making available a brief version that focus on the policy component of existing and new modules; and

- Further enhancements of the current modules to include more in-depth coverage on ICT Applications and Interoperability.

At the national level, the Council emphasized the importance of translating the Academy modules into different languages, and their customization to enhance their relevancy in national contexts.

50.   Recognizing the potential of the Academy porgramme in strengthening the efforts of the member States to bridge the digital divide, the Council recommended the Centre to consider promoting the Academy to be included as part of national ICT human resource development policy of the member States.

51.   The Council acknowledged the critical role the e-Co Hub has played and continue to play in fostering a continuous learning environment through the provision of a dedicated online platform for knowledge sharing and collaboration on ICT for development in the Asia-Pacific region. The Council proposed that the e-Co Hub to build a community of practice around the topics of Community e-Centres and Interoperability.

52.   The Council has expressed overall satisfaction towards the strategic direction the Centre is taking to steer its programmes and endorsed the work plan for the coming year. The representative from Republic of Korea has also reaffirmed unwavering support of the Korean government towards the Centre's future work.

D.   Country Paper Presentations (Agenda Item 7)

53.   Representatives from India, Bangladesh and Thailand have reported on the ICT human resource development policies and programmes of the respective member states and possible areas of collaboration with the activities of APCICT.

54.   The representative of India described several ICT-driven initiatives taken by the government of India across multiples sectors. These initiatives include spread of telecommunications using Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), e-initiatives in health and family welfare sector, programs to facilitate growth of IT industry targeting both foreign and domestic markets, use of ICT in education and the National e-Governance Plan and they have so far successfully demonstrated the potential of ICT towards achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). On ICT human resource development, he listed several government agencies, associations and NGOs that are providing formal and non-formal capacity building programs and trying to improve the quality of ICT education around the country. He also stressed the importance of providing tools and programs in major Indian languages to ensure effective dissemination of ICT related programmes.

55. The representative of Bangladesh explained that as a result of the comprehensive review done on the National ICT Policy, which was formulated in 2002, development of human capacity has been identified as a priority to achieve national development goals. As ICT has been declared as a 'thrust sector,' several efforts have been made to create institutional framework and to train ICT professionals through national training institutes. He pointed out the need to train large number of fresh graduates and proper accreditation for their ICT skills for their professionals to be globally accepted as country needs. He also recommended APCICT to work with Ministry of Science and ICT, BCC, Ministry of Planning and Ministry Education as focal points for the Academy roll-out in Bangladesh.

56. The representative from Thailand presented on IT2010, a policy framework that aims to move the country to become a knowledge-based economy by the end of 2010 and to leverage on ICT advancement to realize ubiquitous society. Human resource development, identified as one of the key areas of this policy framework, focuses on 1) providing easy access to content and 2) providing IT training to both public and private organizations. The first part of the human resource development has been carried out via programmes such as providing PCs and high speed internet for schools and community access points called i-community. ICT human capacity building has been provided through training centres under Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) and Ministry of Science and Technology. She also explained that MICT is undertaking a preparation for setting up a national level training institute called National ICT Academy to enhance national level information literacy.

57. The representative from Indonesia presented on the national vision of Indoneisa Information Society by 2015, where in ICT becomes the effective tool in driving public and private sectors. As an integral part of this national vision, the goal of ICT human resource development in Indonesia is to "Implement Longlife Learning Paradigm." More specifically, the ICT human resource development in Indonesia aims to 1) connect at least 50% of educational institutes including primary, secondary schools, academies and universities and research centres using ICT and to 2) provide educational curriculum that paves concrete ground for knowledge-based society development. The Ministry of Communication and Information Technology(MCIT) has also formulated specific ICT human resource development programs per the four major target groups, namely

government, education, industry and community. In this backdrop, MCIT has carried out various infrastructure building, research and capacity building programmes in partnership with universities in Indonesia as well as foreign donors such as Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and Korea Information Society Development Institutes (KISDI).

E. Date and Venue for the Fourth Session of the Governing Council (Agenda Item 8)

58.   The Council has agreed to host the Fourth Session of the Governing Council of APCICT in Incheon, Korea with the specific timeline to be proposed by the Centre in due course.

F. Other Matters (Agenda Item 9)

59.   The Director reminded the Council that in pursuance of resolution 61/6, the Centre is to submit a comprehensive report on the Centre's works based on the findings of the mid-term review, including an assessment of its financial sustainability and the complementary and value-added contribution of its work to that of other concerned international organizations. The report is to serve as the basis for the comprehensive review by the Commission at its sixty-six session, in 2010 and to determine whether to proceed with the operation of the Centre thereafter.

60.   The Director offered an official acknowledgement and recognition that the achievements of the Centre have been collective efforts of everyone who has been involved. The Director particularly wanted to thank to all experts who provided knowledge, guidelines and insights into developing the Academy and government officials who participated in the Academy workshops, reviewed the programme and provided feedback to further refine and enhance its contents. The Director also expressed gratitude to IDD, the Centre's backstopping division and Program Management Division (PMD) for their support in the Centre's activities. Lastly, the Director thanked Korea Communications Commission and Incheon Metropolitan City Government for the strong support, both tangible and intangible, that has backed up the Centre.

61.   In closing, the Chairperson expressed his honor in serving as the Chairperson for this important deliberation and wished all members of the Governing Council fruitful stay in Mongolia. The Director thanked the Council for providing strategic guidelines to the Centre, Information and Communication Technology Authority, Government of Mongolia (ICTA) for its wonderful hospitality.

G. Adoption of the Report (Agenda Item 10)

62.   The Council adopted this report on [Date]

Annex 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS

BANGLADESH
Mr. Tarique Mosaddique Barkatullah, Senior Systems Analyst, Bangladesh Computer Council, Ministry of Science and Information and Communication Technology, Dhaka

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