

Evidence Based STI Approaches to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals Meeting of the Senior Policy Makers from the Asia-Pacific Region

Co-organizers



Coordinating Secretariat for Science Technology and Innovation (COSTI), Sri Lanka

26 November 2014

MILODA, Ministry of Finance and Planning

Colombo, Sri Lanka

Background

In conjunction with its annual Governing Council meeting, APCTT organizes a meeting with the senior policy makers of the Asia-Pacific countries on an overarching theme of relevance to its work programme. In 2013, a meeting on “South-South Cooperation in STI Capacity Building” was attended by senior officials from China, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand and experts from International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre (ISTIC) and World Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (WASME) and provided useful insights on the topic that would be considered in the workshop programme of the Centre. These insights also contributed in strengthening the on-going programme delivery approaches and efficiency of the project activities of the Centre.

In conjunction with the meeting of the Governing Council to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 27 November 2014, and the ESCAP-TID Asia Pacific Trade and Investment Week, APCTT is organizing the one-day meeting on “Evidence Based STI Policy Making to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals” to brainstorm on the STI based approaches to achieve the post-2015 sustainable development goals. In this context, it is important to note that an Open Working Group (OWG) is currently in the process to develop a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs) for consideration and appropriate action by the General Assembly at its 68th session. These goals are aimed at the promotion and balanced integration of economically, socially and environmentally sustainable development for present and future generations. The proposed goal – *Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation* – is directly relevant to the work programme of the Centre. The Open Working Group has identified ‘Technology’ and ‘Capacity Building’ as a means of implementing the SDGs with emphasis on STI capacity building in developing and least developed countries (LDCs).

The Executive Secretary of ESCAP in her concluding remarks of the 70th Commission stated that STI is a key component of the SDGs and the Commission would be working how best it could assist member states in promoting technology transfer and foster innovation. The 2014 policy statement alluded to support members states in “Deeper policy thinking and consultations on different elements of the means of implementation, in particular on finance, and science, technology and innovation (STI); Broadening and deepening our knowledge bases to share best practices and cross fertilize experience from other regions and within the region”¹. Thus, APCTT is poised to play a key role in promoting and strengthening STI based sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific countries with special emphasis on South-South cooperation. Policymakers and decision makers require national and international data and information to formulate and govern evidence based of STI policies to achieve their post 2015 development agenda.

Participants

Senior policy makers from S&T ministries and specialized institutions of the Asia-Pacific region.

Objectives

- Appraise the SDGs and the means of implementation that are relevant to the work programme of the Centre.
- Deliberate on the current STI based approaches of the Asia-Pacific countries to achieve national development agendas.
- Identify the need and gaps in strengthening evidence (facts and figures) based STI policy development, governance and evaluation in the context of achieving the SDGs.

¹ <http://www.unescap.org/speeches/2014-policy-statement-executive-secretary>

- Brainstorm on the way forward, including opportunities for South-South cooperation to further an STI based development agenda.

Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced knowledge of member country on post-2015 SDGs and means of implementation.
- Improved insights on the STI based approaches of Asia-Pacific countries to achieve their national development agenda.
- Identified key member country capacity building needs.
- APCTT's strategy in the area of STI capacity building includes options to synergize on-going programmes of the member countries.

Tentative Programme

0830 - 0930	-	Opening Session of Asia Pacific Business Forum (APBF)
		Inaugural Session
0930 – 1000	-	Registration
1000 – 1100	-	Opening Statement/Address Prof. Sirimali Fernando, CEO, COSTI
		Post 2015 Development Agenda of the United Nations Mr. Michael Williamson, Head of APCTT
		Keynote Speech Hon. Minister Prof. Tissa Vitavarana, Senior Minister for Scientific Affairs, Sri Lanka
1100 – 1230	-	Session I – Evidence Based STI Policy Making and its Governance : Opportunities and Challenges
		- STI Approaches to Sustainable Development – Issues, Opportunities and Challenges Mr. N. Srinivasan, Coordinator, STI, APCTT
		- Evidence based STI Coordination and Monitoring Framework in Sri Lanka Prof. Ajith de Alwis, Director, COSTI
		- Member country presentations
		Bangladesh Mr. Kazi SalahUddin Akbar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology
		China, P.R of Ms. Rongfang Wang, Coordinator, Division of International Organizations and Conferences, Department of International Cooperation Ministry of Science and Technology
		India Ms. Jyoti. S. Bhat, Adviser/Scientist G, Department of Scientific & Industrial Research, Ministry of Science & Technology.
		Indonesia-TBC
		- Discussion
1230 – 1330	-	Lunch Break
1330 - 1530	-	Session I Continued
		- Member country presentations

Iran, Islamic Republic of

Mr. Mahmoud Molanejad, Director, International Cooperation, Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology (IROST), Ministry of Science, Research and Technology

Malaysia

Mohd Mokhtar Bin Tahar, Under Secretary of Industry Division, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation.

Mohd Azhar Bin Yahaya, Deputy Secretary-General (Policy), Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation.

Pakistan

Mr. Amjad Hussain, Joint Scientific Advisor, Ministry of Science and Technology

Philippines

Mr. Edgar Garcia, Director, Technology Application and Promotion Institute
Department of Science and Technology

Republic of Korea

Mr. Jeong Hyop Lee, Research Fellow, Science & Technology Policy Institute

Sri Lanka

Mr. Ananda Namal, Director General of NERDC

Thailand

Mr. Siriporn Larpkittaworn, Senior Research Officer, Material Innovation Department, Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research (TISTR)

Mrs. Panida Thepkhun, Research Officer, Energy Technology Department Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research (TISTR)

Vietnam-TBC

1530 – 1545	-	Coffee/Tea break
1545 – 1615		Session II – Panel discussion on the Evidence Based STI Approaches including Policy Making and Governance in countries of the Asia-Pacific region
1615 – 1645	-	Concluding Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr. Michael Williamson, APCTT- Prof. Sirimali Fernando, COSTI- Participating member countries