

Evaluation of the
ESCAP subprogramme on
Information and Communications
Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction

Consultant's Report

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March 2012

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ABBREVIATIONS

AADMER	ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response
ACPR	Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ESCAP)
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADPC	Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre
ADRC	Asian Disaster Reduction Centre
AHA	ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management
APECTEL	APEC Telecommunications Working Group
APCICT	Asia Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (ESCAP)
APCTT	Asian Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (ESCAP)
APDR	Asia Pacific Disaster Report
APRSAF	Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum
APT	Asia Pacific Telecommunity
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
APRSAF	Asia Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum
CAPSA	Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (ESCAP)
CNES	French National Space Centre
CNSA	China National Space Agency
CRESDA	China Centre for Resources Satellite Data and Application
CSA	Canadian Space Agency
CSN	Special Unit on Countries with Special Needs (ESCAP)
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
EDD	Environment and Development Division (ESCAP)
EGM	Expert Group Meeting
ESCWA	UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FIVIMS	Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping System (FAO)
GISTDA	Geo-Informatics & Space Technology Development Agency (Thailand)
GLONASS	Global Navigation Satellite System (Russia)
GSMaP	Global Satellite Mapping of Participation (Sentinel Asia)
HPAI	High Pathogenic Avian Influenza
HFA	Hyogo Framework for Action
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization Asia and Pacific (APAC) Office.
ICHARM	International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management
ICDRR	International Center on Drought Risk Reduction (ISDR Beijing)
ICT	Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (ESCAP)
IDD	Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (ESCAP)
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IGMASS	International Globale Monitoring Areospace System (Russia)
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
IFAS	Integrated Flood Analysis System (Sentinel Asia)
JAXA	Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency
JFICT	Japan Fund for Information and Communication Technology
KCC	Korea Communications Commission
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LIRNEasia	LIRNEasia (IDRC; UKaid)

LLDCs	Landlocked Developing Countries
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MNCDM	Maldives Nation Centre for Disaster Management
MPDD	Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division (ESCAP)
NDRCC	National Disaster Reduction Centre of China
NRSCI	National Remote Sensing Centre of India
OEI	Organizational Effectiveness Initiative (ESCAP)
PDNA	Post Disaster Needs Assessment
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PITA	Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association
PMD	Programme Management Division (ESCAP)
PoTC	Panel on Tropical Cyclones
PTC	Pacific Telecommunications Conference
RESAP	Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (ESCAP)
RIMES	Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early Warning System
RPTC	Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation (ESCAP)
SA	Sentinel Asia
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SASEC	South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (ADB)
SDD	Social Development Division (ESCAP)
SEAMEO	Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization
SIAP	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SOPAC	SPC Applied Geoscience and Technology Division
SPECA	Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (UNECE)
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SROs	Subregional Offices (ESCAP)
SU/SSC	Special Unit for South-South Cooperation
TC	Typhoon Committee
TD	Transport Division (ESCAP)
TID	Trade and Investment Division (ESCAP)
UNAPCAEM	UN Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Mechanization (ESCAP)
UNCTAD	UN Conference on Trade and Development
UNDA	UN Development Account
UNDAF	UN Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	UN Environment Programme
UNESCO	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESCWA	UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
UNISDR	UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
UNOCHA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNOOSA	UN Office for Outer Space Affairs
UN-SPIDER	UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (China)
UPU	Universal Postal Union
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization
WINDS	Wideband Internetworking Engineering Test and Demonstration Satellite
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WSIS	World Summit on the Information Society
XB	Extra Budgetary

Executive Summary

This report is an evaluation of the work of ESCAP's subprogramme 5, the Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction for the period 2008-2011. In 2008-2009 it was designated subprogramme 7, the Information, Communications and Space Technology. The evaluation concerns three parameters: the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the subprogramme. The consultants were Dr John Ure and Dr Jenny Wan who assisted on the survey design, data collection, input and analysis.

The evaluation was conducted to ascertain ESCAP's comparative advantages in delivering its programme of work under the subprogramme 5 on Information and Communication Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction. In addition, the evaluation will provide insights for ESCAP in its future work on information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction.

The specific objectives are:

- (i) To assess the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the subprogramme, including its projects and activities;
- (ii) To determine the extent to which the work of ESCAP in this specific subprogramme was complementary and value-added to the work of other relevant international and regional organizations;
- (iii) To identify strengths and weaknesses of the subprogramme in order to come up with actionable recommendations for improvement;
- (iv) To draw lessons from the experience of the subprogramme that could contribute to learning at ESCAP.

Methodology

The evaluation methodology followed closely the TOR guidelines (Appendix 1). The research methods included a desk review of documents, close to 30 face-to-face meetings and seven telephone interviews, and a focus group discussion with Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD) staff, and two on-line surveys: the first, which was sent to 49 members of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ACPR) and 34 members of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Committees, received 14 returns; the second sent to 38 members of the Regional Interagency Working Group on ICT, received 3 returns. A major limitation was the timing: Christmas, New Year and Lunar New Year holidays. An effort was made to address these problems by extending the period of data collection from early

January to 20th January and an additional mission to Bangkok was added; but despite this the response was limited.

Findings

Relevance

The IDD's programme is generally regarded as highly relevant to the achievement of the MDG and the aims of the HFA. The more economically developed countries, while recognizing this, make the point that they work independently of ESCAP with other international and regional organizations. Intended or not, this Report finds there has been a shift of focus towards disaster risk reduction (DRR) since 2010 and the opportunity cost has been the IDD is left with too little focus on non-DRR related activities involving ICTs. Given there are a large number of other UN and non-UN agencies involved in DRR work the level of support IDD devotes to these activities should be reviewed with the focus on its convening powers, and its analytical and normative work. A related issue is whether there is sufficient emphasis upon the socio-economic aspects of DRR. Currently the emphasis is more on technical (technologies and their applications) matters and less on developmental (socio-economic and people-centred) matters. This Report suggests there should be a rebalance.

Efficiency

The subprogramme makes an efficient use of its allocated resources and shows evidence of rising productivity as staff numbers were maintained and the regular budget increased by only 4% but staff-supported activities as supported by Extrabudgetary funds rose by 46%. RB delivery rates are close to 100%.

Effectiveness

The most effective interventions were the well-timed reactions to emergency situations, such as the floods in Pakistan, where the catalytic role of ESCAP has produced multiplier effects. (Also see Appendix 5). At the other end of the scale, the success of some of IDD's initiatives based upon collaboration with other organizations, and with the Pacific subregion in particular, has been dented by claims of exclusiveness and IDD needs to be sensitive. In between these two extremes, there are a variety of respondent reactions suggesting that different activities are regarded as more or less successful in different subregions. This Report however finds that the mainstreaming of socio-economic issues such as gender and disability has not received sufficient attention in reality and at times (in Project Reports) seems to border on tokenism.

Conclusions and Recommendations

1. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E): Evaluations for a result-based environment must focus on the outcomes for the beneficiaries and not just the outputs of the service delivery. Currently project documents and progress terminal reports have three major weaknesses. First, they focus too much on, often bland, quantitative measures of outputs (such as the number of workshops) without a qualitative assessment of what was achieved. Second, they do not relate specific activities to specific targets, such as mainstreaming gender issues, with the result they read like tokenism. The detail of activities with partnering organizations should also be specified to identify the value-added by IDD. Drawing up long lists of “partners” should be avoided as window-dressing. Third, they lack a longer term perspective of outcomes, or changes in behaviour that resulted from the outputs. The latter would require follow-up and close collaboration with the stakeholders involved.

- a. It is recommended that IDD review the manner in which reports relating to projects are undertaken to address these three specific points.
- b. It is recommended that the evaluation of *outcomes* of activities and projects resulting from their *outputs* should be a key aim of IDD. Achieving this aim will require the active participation of the key beneficiaries and stakeholders, for example of line ministries or research institutions, who can play a role in assessing the long-run results such as changes in behaviour or in policies or in the manner in which policies are implemented. One way of achieving this could be to assign ‘project management’ responsibilities to key professional staff for day-to-day management of specific projects or parts of projects that would involve them in regular communication with stakeholders for the duration of the monitoring and evaluation period.

2. Committees: IDD is the only division with two committees and a considerable effort goes into making them function well. This Report finds that while they are greatly appreciated some members of the ACPRs are frustrated by what they regard as too many self-referential formalities, insufficient discussion of substantive issues and too much passivity among member States. This Report also finds that while there is a wide recognition and understanding of the work of ESCAP and its subprogramme among the representatives of active member States, others are less familiar, especially where they are new to their job. This also applies to some partnering organizations, somewhat surprisingly to a major funding organization for example. It is also the case that many member States do not fully participate in Committee meetings, notably but not exclusively the low income member States.

- a. It is recommended that IDD explore ways to enhance awareness and participation of member States and other stakeholders in the work of IDD, including through offering an annual induction event for member States.
- b. It is recommended that IDD explore ways to attract wider participation in Committee meetings. The following actions are suggested: (i) establish a travel/accommodation pool of funds to assist lower-income member States to participate, or alternatively explore ways in which higher-income members can partner with lower-income members to assist their attendance; (ii) use teleconferencing to connect member States who cannot attend in person; (iii) set agenda items so that subregional issues are clustered, are timed for maximum convenience of low-income member States and papers in major local languages circulated well in advance. Although IDD's focus is regional, it makes sense to acknowledge the primary areas of interest for many member States are subregional.

Looking Forward

3. IDD comparative advantages: This Report finds that although the initial intention of adding DRR to ICSTD was to broaden rather than shift the focus of the division, the reality is different. Staff time ("payment-in-kind") is used to support XB-funded projects which are overwhelmingly DRR-focused. In theory this should not be such an issue if the socio-economic aspects of HFA goals are fully represented in these projects, but the evidence suggests they are oriented more to technical than to socio-economic issues.¹ Because resources are constrained it does seem that the opportunity cost has been a lesser emphasis on the socio-economic work activities of ICTD over the biennium.

ESCAP stands for 'Economic' and 'Social'. We live in an age when ICTs are fundamental to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development and the achievement of the MDG is a task not yet accomplished. With regard to the goals of the HFA it is recommended that IDD specifically target the economic and social aspects of disaster risk reduction. With regard to the MDG/WSIS goals it is recommended that IDD raise the profile of the normative and analytical work and information-sharing of ICT and Space issues in this area. This is a resource-efficient way to enhance the reputation of IDD. But it is important that the information shared is based on well-grounded and high quality research findings from IDD or other sources. Quality assurance is a very important part of it.

- a. It is recommended that IDD staff work activities related to the "Economic and Social" aspects of the ESCAP subprogramme using a people-centric approach receive more support. To leverage the comparative advantage of IDD in the field of ICTs (ICTD and Space Technologies) a focus on two closely related areas of policy advice and

¹ At the focus group discussion staff expressed concern that work on ICTs had been marginalized as resources were deployed elsewhere within the division.

facilitation makes sense: on sustainable economic and social development and bringing the benefits of that development to the most disadvantaged and marginalized people in the community.² For example, the promotion of affordable ICT development in rural areas for Internet access for communications, social media, e-services, e-commerce, trade and investment, etc., and the regional connectivity project currently proposed jointly with TD and TID.

- b. It is recommended that a minimum funding level is set for staff time devoted to activities in support of the socio-economic agenda to safeguard against 'shift drift' away from developmental towards technical concerns. This does *not* mean that less support for DRR activities which are focused on socio-economic issues.

4. Collaboration with partners: This Report finds there are areas – *few in number* – in which the modalities of working with partners are in need of review and improvement. But in general IDD has a good track record in working with other organizations. IDD also has many partners, such as the ADB and the ITU, who work closely with NGOs and the private sector. The programmatic approach of ESCAP places importance on integrating large scale projects with different modes of funding.³ IDD works in an area in which the private sector is both dominant and dynamic.

- a. It is recommended that IDD assign a senior staff with responsibility to liaise with other UN agencies, partner organizations and the private sector to explore common interests and modalities, including ways to initiate public-private partnerships within the rules of ESCAP and the UN.⁴

5. Duplication: This Report finds concerns were held by a number of respondents and also recorded in the Committee reports that IDD risked duplicating the work of other UN and non-UN agencies and organizations. In the field of ICTs the private sector and many multilateral and national agencies, for example the ITU, APT, APECTEL, the ADB, national space agencies, etc., are involved in promoting the building of ICT infrastructure, the deployment of devices and applications. Equally, in the field of DRR there are many national and regional organizations and agencies at work. In this regard some member States and interviewees questioned whether the Asia-Pacific Gateway for Disaster Risk Reduction and Development was at risk of duplicating other websites devoted to DRR. It should be noted that if duplication has a marginal cost close to zero, for example, if the Gateway receives

² As outlined by the Executive Secretary Dr Noeleen Heyser in 2010, "A project is being formulated at the secretariat to use ICT for socially-disadvantaged groups such as the disabled, the elderly, women and children, so they might better connect with society." *Welcome Statement*, CICT November 2010, p.3

³ ESCAP (March 2011) 'Programmatic Approach & Resource Mobilization Strategy' power-point presentation

⁴ Working with ASEAN and the APT to progress the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for equipment type approval, with ASEAN to promote the 2015 Master Plan on Connectivity and with APECTEL on the harmonization of ICT standards are examples where public-private partnerships suggest themselves.

feeds from and provides links to other sources of information, then the opportunity cost to IDD of providing the benefits of a 'one-stop shop' for member States could be low; but the value-added has to come from areas of policy and legislative information

While significant progress towards the achievement of the MDG in Asia has been made in terms of ICT access as a recent ESCAP/ADB/UNDP report reveals,⁵ closing the digital divide and other MDGs remain to be accomplished. Therefore IDD's normative and advocacy work supported by well-grounded analysis and reports remains highly relevant to the needs of member States, and can be especially effective if it gels in a holistic way with the efforts of other agencies and organizations, with NGOs and the private sector.

- a. It is recommended that IDD undertake a systematic assessment of activities and projects that seem to overlap substantially with the work of other agencies and organizations with a view to rationalizing IDD's commitments. For example, by appointing a senior staff to undertake a stocktake of IDD's own contributions to the MDGs – which according to the Project Reports (Appendix 6) and the evidence of IDD publications (see text) looks quite *ad hoc* – and identify the gaps to which IDD can most realistically hope to make a contribution. Such a stocktake could also be used to identify duplication of work by other agencies by asking the question when IDD partners with other agencies and organizations: without the support of IDD would the outputs and outcomes have been very different? For example, does IDD offer anything unique in DRR training course?
- b. It is recommended that IDD communicate definitively the value-added of the Asia Gateway in terms of policy and legislative issues and consult stakeholders on the nature and type of information and access on the Asia-Gateway that would most add value to its future development and make its contribution notably distinctive. This could include whether it remains a one-directional channel of communication or a two-directional channel of feedback, but the latter would be more resource-intensive.

6. Gender: The Report finds although the issue of gender sensitivity should be an integral component of IDD programmes and related projects this is only very partially the case. For example, gender as an issue receives little attention beyond lip-service in Project Reports. Two observations are therefore worth making. First, not all projects will necessarily include gender issues and it is just as well therefore to be explicit about this. The alternative is tokenism; but it also follows that some projects should make explicit efforts to address gender issues. For example, projects addressing access to ICT education and skills training should specifically address the issue of equal access and make provision for research into

⁵ ESCAP/ADB/UNDP (2012) *Accelerating Equitable Achievement of the MDGs: The Asia-Pacific MDG Report 2011/12* <http://beta.adb.org/sites/default/files/equitable-achievement-mdgs.pdf>

impediments and ways to tackle them. Second, gender is one of several important socio-economic issues; people of disability, people in poverty, people in remote areas, etc., are all among the especially vulnerable to natural disasters and to economic and social marginalization. But gender is a cross-cutting issue and the empowerment of women is demonstrably the most effective way to empower communities (the practical argument). There is not much evidence of IDD mainstreaming gender issues 2008-2011.

- a. It is recommended that IDD mainstream gender issues in a much more explicit way in recognition of the central role women play in the achievement of the MDGs

Introduction and Background

This report is an evaluation of the work of ESCAP's subprogramme 5, the Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction for the period 2008-2011. In 2008-2009 it was designated subprogramme 7, the Information, Communications and Space Technology. The evaluation concerns three parameters: the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the work of IDD.

As stated in the TOR (Appendix 1) the specific objectives are:

- (v) To assess the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the subprogramme, including its projects and activities;
- (vi) To determine the extent to which the work of ESCAP in this specific subprogramme was complementary and value-added to the work of other relevant international and regional organizations;
- (vii) To identify strengths and weaknesses of the subprogramme in order to come up with actionable recommendations for improvement;
- (viii) To draw lessons from the experience of the subprogramme that could contribute to learning at ESCAP.

The main evaluation criteria and evaluation questions are given as follows:⁶

Relevance

1. To what extent did the subprogramme meet the needs of member and associate member States?
2. To what extent was the subprogramme created synergies with the work of other ESCAP subprogrammes?
3. How clear is ESCAP's role and mandate in its work related to the subprogramme to key stakeholders?
4. To what extent are ESCAP's comparative advantages in the subprogramme area clear to its members, partners and stakeholders?
5. What is ESCAP's role, strengths and weaknesses, to the extent possible, in comparison to other development actors in the region, including other United Nations entities, in the subprogramme area?

⁶ This follows the general framework as set out in the *ESCAP Monitoring & Evaluation System Overview* ESCAP/PMD/M&E/1/Rev 2 October 2009: Relevance: Appropriateness of objectives of a theme or subprogramme...; Efficiency: the extent to which human and financial resources were used in the best possible way to deliver activities and outputs, in coordination with other stakeholders; Effectiveness: the extent to which the expected objectives of a subprogramme...or outcomes of a project) have been achieved, and have resulted in changes and effects, positive and negative, planned and unforeseen, with respect to the target groups and other affected stakeholders. (p.26)

Efficiency

6. To what extent does the subprogramme, reflect a realistic assessment of its capacity to deliver under UN budgetary constraints?
7. How cost-effective is the subprogramme given the budget (both regular budget and extra-budgetary) allocated to deliver it?
8. To what extent are there management, administrative or operational bottlenecks in the subprogramme that hamper its contribution to the work of ESCAP as a whole?

Effectiveness

9. To what extent were the subprogramme and activities effective in achieving the development results contained in the ESCAP's programmes of work?
10. How effective was the subprogramme and activities in collaboration with other subprogrammes in ESCAP?
11. To what extent was gender equality reflected in activities and results?
12. To what extent did the subprogramme and activities collaborate with other international organizations, including UN Country Teams or UN regional organizations in planning and implementing activities?

Methodology and Limitations

The evaluation methodology follows closely the TOR guidelines with the exception of missions to member States for which there was no budget:

1. A desk review of secondary documents, including the ESCAP's programme of work, relevant project documents and progress reports, relevant ESCAP evaluation reports provided by the evaluation manager

A list of documents is provided in Appendix 2 of this Report

2. Missions to ESCAP in Bangkok to conduct face-to-face key-informant interviews/ focus group discussions with ESCAP staff, partner institutions and member states

Close to 30 face-to-face meetings took place altogether, including members of ESCAP (see Appendix 3) which were arranged for the consultant according to availability by ESCAP. They included six member States and a seventh by telephone – two States declined interviews, one on the grounds that they had not been actively involved with IDD and the other because they had no interest – and with three UN partnering agencies and six others by telephone. In addition a focus group discussion was held with IDD staff.

3. An on-line survey to relevant stakeholders

Two online surveys were sent out by email using Google docs which enables recipients to access a questionnaire directly through the email, complete it and return it all within the same operation. The preparation of the questionnaire was undertaken after detailed consultation with ESCAP.

The first survey was sent to 49 members of the ACPR and 34 members of the ICT and DRR Committees on 19th December 2011 with follow-up reminders on 5th and 8th January 2012. There were 14 returns by the closing date 20th January 2012. The survey can be found at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?formkey=dHdiZUdXVXNnUVIfYlc2Q3VJbklxVVE6MA>

The second survey was sent to 38 members of the Interagency Working Group on ICT on 20th December 2011 with a reminder sent on 8th January. There were three returns by closing date 20th January 2012, a disappointing return rate. The survey can be found at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?formkey=dFQ0WFdDd0VHSEhISV80am1mymVHa1E6MQ>

Out of the 14 replies to the Online Survey, 8 were from ESCAP Member States/Associate Members, 3 were from NGOs, only 2 non-UN regional/subregional organizations and 1 UN entity responded. For the Survey to the Regional Interagency Working Group on ICT, three returns were received from the International Telecommunication Union, the International Civil Aviation Organization and the Universal Postal Union, respectively.

4. Follow-up telephone interviews as may be required to clarify responses provided through the on-line questionnaire.

Emails were used for the follow-ups

Limitations

The major limitation was the timing of the evaluation, coming shortly prior to three public holidays (Christmas, New Year and Lunar New in January 2012). This made it extremely difficult to contact people and no doubt was the major factor explaining the low response rate to the surveys. An effort was made to address these problems by extending the period of data collection from early January to 20th January and an additional mission to Bangkok was added; but despite this the response was limited. Needless to say, the data from the surveys carries no statistical significance. A further limitation was lack of a budget for country missions, but in light of the timing this probably made little overall difference. A third limitation is that many of those interviewed from agencies or country PRs had no long term experience of working with ESCAP so their knowledge and feedback was inevitably limited. Some of them generously offered to contact their colleagues by email but again the timing proved a problem.

While the range of funding sources (see Appendix 4) and activities of IDD (and of ICTSD before it) make it difficult to review all aspects of the programme in detail, every effort has been made to consider the key elements.⁷ For example, it is difficult to closely evaluate the

⁷ The scope of a subprogramme evaluation could be the combined work of a division, a section, a subregional office or a regional institution, or the portfolio of technical cooperation activities implemented under the subprogramme' ESCAP Monitoring & Evaluation System Overview ESCAP/PMD/M&E/1/Rev 2 October 2009, p.29

many Project Reports because up to this point it seems that no *systematic* process of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is being followed.⁸

Analytical Method: A Weighted Average Methodology

To repeat, no statistical significance can be attached to the results based upon the data, and the analysis should be read as *narrative only*. For the purposes of analysis this report uses a weighted average methodology in order to obtain a consistent order of ranking. The most positive answer in the 4 point likert scale is weighted x4, the second most positive answer by x3, the less negative answer by x2 and the most negative answer x1 and the sum of these weighted answers will be divided by the total number of such positives and negatives ('don't knows' and 'no answers' are excluded) to yield a weighted average. As the same method is applied to all the relative scores are comparable. The highest score possible is 4. The purpose is simply to highlight areas (raise a flag) where the weighted average is less rather than more positive. In these cases there *may be* an issue to be reviewed further by ESCAP. The detailed results of the survey are given in Appendix11.⁹

Context

The Programmatic Approach

The evaluation comes at a time when ESCAP is repositioning itself for the period 2011-2013 by developing a *programmatic* approach¹⁰ towards its contribution to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)/WSIS¹¹ and the aims of the 10-year Hyogo Framework for Action¹² as agreed at the 2005 World Disaster Reduction Conference to increase preparedness to manage disasters such as the Indian Ocean tsunami. The programmatic approach is designed to bring greater and more explicit synergy and collaboration to the work of ESCAP's "eight mutually supportive" subprogrammes, which include IDD. It is part of the overall UN philosophy adopted post-2006 of 'Delivering as One'.¹³

Following a series of catastrophic events, including the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004, Cyclone Nargis that devastated areas of Myanmar in 2008, and the Sichuan earthquake in

⁸ The key document is the ESCAP Monitoring & Evaluation System Overview ESCAP/PMD/M&E/1/Rev 2 October 2009

⁹ Note, the choice of the weights to be used is convenience and so long as the same weighting procedure is applied consistently to all results a ranking is obtainable. Any set of weights will serve this purpose.

¹⁰ ESCAP (March 2011) 'ESCAP Resource Mobilization Strategy 2011-2013' and 'Programmatic Approach & Resource Mobilization Strategy' power-point slides.

¹¹ <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/> and <http://www.itu.int/wsis/index.html>

¹² <http://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/hfa>

¹³ Report of the High-level Panel on United Nations Systemwide Coherence, 2006' – see <http://www.un.org/en/ga/deliveringasone/>

China in 2008,¹⁴ DRR was added to ICSTD in 2010 to become IDD (ICTD and Space Technology + DRR) and that has inevitably posed question marks over the focus of the subprogramme and, with finite funding there is unavoidably an opportunity cost involved in how IDD deploys its resources, even before the latest round of UN budget cuts.¹⁵ A question that hangs over IDD is whether the shift in focus towards disaster risk reduction (DRR) is a sustainable one for IDD or whether the nature and scale of IDD's commitment will need to be revisited given the number of complementary government, regional and international organizations and agencies doing work in the field. (See Appendix 4 for the shift from ICSTD to IDD)

There is little reason to doubt that DRR is highly relevant to the needs of the regional members of ESCAP, but if the opportunity cost is high in terms of forsaking equally relevant activities which may be less well covered by other organizations and agencies, then this report will address the issue. Cuts in budgets will add to the urgency of this question.¹⁶ IDD's commitment to the MDGs/WSIS and HFA goals implies that issues such as socio-economic development and gender sensitivity need to be an integral component of programmes and related projects. The report finds this is only very partially the case.

IDD Activities

Activities arise from three areas of work. First, the regular and routine work of the ICT, Space and DRR sections in serving Commission sessions and committees, doing analytical research papers and publication, administration, etc.; second, implementing technical cooperation projects funded through Extrabudgetary (XB) and United Nations Development Account (UNDA); third, providing technical assistance and advisory services funded mainly by Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation (RPTC) (Appendix 5) based on requests by member States.

Table 1.1 lists the IDD publications 2008-2011. To these activities we can add the website, the Asia-Pacific Gateway for Disaster Risk Reduction and Development developed in partnership with ADB, ADPC, ISDR and UNOOSA.¹⁷ What seems evident from these titles is a shift of focus from information society issues to disaster risk reduction issues from 2009 to 2010 even if this was not the initial intention.

¹⁴ This made 2008 the third most expensive year on record for disaster related damages after the 1995 earthquake that struck Kobe in Japan and Hurricane Katrina that struck the US in 2005.

¹⁵ In December 2011 the General Assembly approved a cut in the budget for 2012-2013 from USD5.41 billion to USD5.15 billion, only the second time in 50 years. The last cut was in 1998. There was no cut for the ESCAP budget for 2012-2013.

¹⁶ While cuts in funding from extra budgetary sources may also take place if world economic circumstances remain poor, they could nevertheless come to represent a larger percentage of total funds.

¹⁷ <http://www.drsgateway.net/>

Table 1.1: IDD Publications 2008-2011¹⁸

- Who is vulnerable during tsunamis? Experiences from the Great East Japan Earthquake 2011 and the Indian Ocean Tsunami 2004 (2011)
- Practices In Drought Disaster Monitoring And Early Warning (2010)
- Collaborative Building Of Regional Disaster Communications Capabilities (2010)
- Water Resources Series No. 86 - Developing Innovative Strategies for Flood-resilient Cities (December 2010)
- Asia Pacific Disaster Report 2010 - Protecting Development Gains (October 2010)
- Policy Brief in ICT Applications in the Knowledge Economy, No. 7, December 2009: Improving Health Care in Rural Areas: Information and Communications Technology Solutions for Least Developed Countries (December 2009)
- Regional Progress and Strategies towards Building the Information Society in Asia and the Pacific (2009)
- Policy Brief in ICT Applications in the Knowledge Economy, No. 6, November 2009: Spatial Data Infrastructures to Support Informed Decision-making for Inclusive and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (November 2009)
- Policy Brief in ICT Applications in the Knowledge Economy, No. 5, September 2009: Using Telecentres for Disaster Risk Management at the Community Level (September 2009)
- Policy Brief in ICT Applications in the Knowledge Economy, No. 4, September 2009: Information and Communications Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction (2009)
- Enhancing Pacific Connectivity: The Current Situation, Opportunities for Progress (2008)

Table 1.2 lists IDD papers. This again seems to be evidence of a similar *de facto* shift in focus.

Table 1.2: IDD Papers 2009-2011¹⁹

2011
Who is vulnerable during tsunamis? Experiences from the Great East Japan Earthquake 2011 and the Indian Ocean Tsunami 2004.
2010
Practices in Drought Disaster Monitoring and Early Warning (WP5-2-902 / PB138384) Collaborative Building of Regional Disaster Communications Capabilities (WP5-2-910 / PB138377)
2009
Green ICT: A "Cool" Factor in the Wake of Multiple Meltdowns markets in Central Asia (WP7-2-907 / PB126505) Application of ICT indicators to assess the current status of ICT and e-readiness in Asia and the Pacific (WP7-2-9151 / PB135814) Measuring ICT for Development and Building of the Information Society in Asia and the Pacific (WP7-2-913 / PB126497) Bridging the Digital Divide between Urban and Rural Areas: Experience of the Republic of Korea (WP7-2-911 / PB127000)

¹⁸ <http://www.unescap.org/publications/titlebydivision.asp?div=6>

¹⁹ <http://www.unescap.org/idd/papers.asp>

Role of Telecentres as Knowledge Networks: Successes and Challenges (WP7-2-905 / PB126507)
 Broadband for Central Asia and the road ahead: Economic development through improved
 Regional Broadband Networks - Macro-level study of 4 selected broadband (WP7-2-909 /
 PB126883)
 Competency-based Training Guidelines for ICT Initiatives at the Community Level (WP7-2-914 /
 PB126504)
 Collaborative Development of a Regional Disaster Management Support Platform on Space-
 based Information Sharing and Analysis (WP7-2-906 / PB126501)
 Free and Open Source Software for Disaster Management: a Case Study of Sahana Disaster
 Management System of Sri Lanka (WP7-2-901 / PB126506)
 Korean Experience of Overcoming Economic Crisis through ICT Development (WP7-2-909 /
 PB126886)

Findings

The documentary sources used for the evaluation are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2: Evaluation Sources

	Work Programme	Projects Reports	Surveys	Committee Reports	Interviews
Relevance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Efficiency	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Effectiveness	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Work Programme

The ‘Expected Accomplishments’ and their respective performance indicators and data verification and analysis of the Work Programmes for 2008-2009 and 2010-2011 are listed in Appendix 8. As discussed below, the indicators – such as the number of meetings held, the numbers participating, end-of-session questionnaires – are generally bland, easily attainable and not very instructive. Missing are qualitative indicators and measures. For example, increasing participation in ESCAP events can be measured by the percentage of member States attending but does not address either the immediate or the longer-term benefits of the events.²⁰ It is recommended (see below) that both ‘Indicators of achievement’ and ‘Performance measures’ are reviewed to make them more operational to a results-based approach.²¹

²⁰ Long term benefits could include changes in the way participants perform when they return to their workplaces, or changes in the institutional practices of member States, or measures taken by member States as a consequence of their participation, etc.

²¹ The more relevant are indicators and measures the more resources have to be devoted to their monitoring and evaluation from within ESCAP. Given resource constraint this inevitably implies doing less better.

Project Reports

Technical cooperation projects can be funded by the RPTC budget, the UNDA budget or the XB budget. The project reports detail the expenditure of IDD resources, UN funds and donor funds. Funds and projects are summarized in Appendix 6.

Feedback from interviews (see below) and report assessments testify to the relevance of these projects. What this report finds (see below) is that, first, project reporting needs to conform more to the monitoring and evaluation standards of the ESCAP M&E system of 2009 to draw out the real impact of the activities.²² Second, even though relevant in the sense of addressing the real needs of member States, there does seem to be an opportunity cost for IDD in terms of focus and value-added. IDD can add marginal value to the work of other agencies such as Sentinel Asia, ISDR, OCHA, ITU, ATP, etc. (see below where some respondents are concerned with duplication) but the real added value lies in what IDD can *uniquely* bring to the table.

Surveys, Committee Reports and Interviews

The list of interviews is provided in Appendix 3 and a summary of results in Appendix 11.

1. Relevance

1. To what extent did the subprogramme meet the needs of member and associate member States?

Relevance to member States There were 14 responses to the ACPR and ICT/DRR Committee online survey. The results are strongly positive. Using average weighted scores (maximum 4) ICT scored 3.6, DRR scored 3.5, and Space scored 3.4. There were only 3 respondents to the Regional Interagency Working Group on ICTs online survey. Two “strongly agreed” that the work of IDD was relevant to the work of the IWG, and one “agreed”.

Regional cooperation mechanisms are considered highly relevant (3.5) especially true in the area of DRR and early warning systems. But this Report also finds some misgivings expressed about the modalities of regional cooperation. For example, Nepal seeks more “participatory methods in promoting regional cooperation” (CICT November 2010, para 64; see also 5 below) so the responses to the survey are best interpreted as an acknowledgement that regional cooperation mechanisms are very much needed, not that IDD has got it completely right yet.

²² Monitoring & Evaluation System Overview ESCAP/PMD/M&E/1/Rev 2 October 2009

	<p>'Analytical work' and 'Capacity development/technical assistance' received a solid weighting (3.4) followed by 'Advisory services'(3.3)</p>
	<p>Unnecessary duplication of the work of other organizations received a weighting of 2.1 (where 4 represents total agreement with the statement) with 57% of respondents agreeing and only 2 disagreeing. One respondent commented "Several areas of work addressed by the subprogramme appears to overlap with the UN bodies and specialized agencies such as United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Asia Pacific Telecommunity, International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) etc. The work of the subprogram should be reassessed."</p>
<p>Committee views</p>	<p>There is less ambiguity about the achievements of the HFA goals. For example, Pakistan took the opportunity at the November 2010 CICT meeting to express "appreciation for the efforts made by the ESCAP secretariat after the recent catastrophic floods in the country." (para. 49).</p> <p>The responses to the CICT November 2010 end-of-session questionnaire have been recalibrated in Appendix 12 to average weighted scores (max 5). The two lowest went to "Expected outcomes: Member States are informed and decide on any outstanding concerns related to ICCT" (3.0) and "To what extent did the CICT succeed in identifying priorities and emerging issues, particularly those with implications for the secretariat" (3.1). These lukewarm responses relate to the effectiveness of the Committees, but in this case effectiveness influences how IDD establishes its relevance to the needs and issues facing member States.</p> <p>The CDRR questionnaires responses are overwhelmingly positive, but the comments tend to be more circumspect, with one respondent (March 2009) suggesting: "Listen more to countries on their specific needs and less formal format in discussion."</p>
<p>Relevance to LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS</p>	<p>The work of IDD is mostly seen as relevant to and by Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs). Four such countries were approached for interviews, three from South and South-West Asia and one from South-East Asia. One from South Asia confirmed DRR work as highly relevant to the country's needs. Another highlighted the importance of DRR information sharing following the establishment of an ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance in its capital, adding that EGMs were especially helpful, as workshops of experts-to-non-</p>

experts and as work groups of experts-experts. On the other hand, this South East Asian country finds the ICT and DRR Committees “very routine” and officials attending them were often not very knowledgeable. In a written response a third country praised ESCAP for its work in DRR “management concepts and standards”, while the fourth country declined an interview on the grounds that no one from the Embassy had attended a Committee meeting.

The response of Pacific Island SIDS was more mixed. One country stressed an over-riding concern with ICT connectivity for the country and the subregion, but the PR who was interviewed had little direct experience of the work of IDD. On the other hand, during the course of a telephone interview one official from the subregion complained they sometimes feel IDD is trying to “sell” them something and this is resented locally, and suggested IDD should focus less on “what” to do and more on “how” to do it with local partners, as that would be “the key to our success”. The interview rather reflects the views expressed in ESCAP (2011) ‘Evaluative Review of the ESCAP Pacific Office’ November 2011, by Jonathan Hampshire and indeed by an earlier 2003 report.²³

Relevance to Developed Countries An upper-middle income country and three high-income countries were approached for interviews. Two of them expressed an active involvement with, and detailed knowledge of, the work of IDD. In one case, the country concerned said they work more closely with the ITU on ICT matters, but congratulated IDD on finding the resources to meet member’s needs, notably in pursuit of the HFA, especially in Central Asia and its focus on extreme weather conditions. However they did raise a question mark over the sustainability of the Asia Gateway website project (see below).

In the case of the second country, they fully supported the Gateway as a resource-efficient means of distributing information, but were rather more concerned that the Regional Cooperative Mechanism on Disaster Monitoring and Early Warning, Particularly Drought may duplicate the work of other agencies, for example the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum organized annually by JAXA. In light of this the country suggests IDD should be more narrowly focused to maximize the efficient use of its resources, hence its support for the Gateway and Asian Pacific Disaster

²³ Rather similar views are found in A.V.Hughes ‘Evaluation of UNESCAP’s Pacific Operations Centre’ March 2003. For example, “there is little evidence of collaboration between ESCAP and other UN agencies in the Pacific.” (para. 20)

Report (APDR) initiatives. (See also under Efficiency).

The third high-income country interviewed sees IDD's relevance primarily in terms of serving the needs of countries with special needs. With its own regional and international channels of communications, IDD is of less direct relevance to itself which sees the relevance problem as one of member States being rather passive, of rarely articulating their needs and there often being a disconnect between the PRs in Bangkok and their Capitals, a view that came up in numerous interviews and which may partially explain the poor rate of response to the online survey.

Duplication and overlap of work between IDD and other UN and non-UN agencies was another concern with this country, citing satellite imagery and training as examples. The point being that duplication may reduce the relevance of IDD's contribution. But the country also sees opportunities including 'going Green'. The country concluded that it is not always obvious how relevant or effective IDD's initiatives really are, but certainly information sharing has an important role to play. Looking forward, this country feels there should be less paperwork and time spent on Committees and more focus on partnerships, especially on what they do and not just on how they do it.²⁴

The fourth high-income country responded with a short email (to ESCAP) saying their only "practical interest" in the work of IDD concerned the implementation of the Iran resolution which they did not intend to raise with the consultant. Several non-country I sources (including two within IDD) referred to this country's unhappiness with the modalities of IDD in the Pacific subregion.

Views of
IDD staff

Focus Group: The APDR and the Gateway project are trying to target line ministries with good statistical and analytical information and both are in need of targeted funding; Space Technology is struggling to make connections with the other sections and to reinvent itself, while staff felt that ICTD has taken a back seat for the past 3 years. Although ICTD should be participating in statistical work and analysis in reality it is not and ICTD should be segregated from DRR.

There is a danger, as one staff member from another Division put it, that member States do raise questions of relevance, but often see ESCAP as

²⁴ Note, this is the other side of the coin from the position coming from the official from the Pacific stated above.

marginal, adding that ESCAP, and IDD, need to be focus-led and issue-focused with a view to what are the emerging issues. “We can all be experts, but we must not be just process managers.”

An undercurrent of all the interviews with IDD staff was that the MDGs and the HFA goals, while complementary, stretched resources and in recent years ICTD had taken the back seat. As one senior official put it “without funds the focus should be on analysis and normative work” pointing out at that poverty and not climate change was the issue for IDD. One senior official did not foresee any major shift in direction for the section, but did see the need for more information sharing with ICTD and Space Technology.

Other views OCHA made the point that the impetus to create IDD really followed the catastrophe of cyclone Nargis in 2008, but initially a shortage of staff in DRR restricted IDD’s capability. This is an important point, because an activity or focus can be highly relevant, but if capacity is insufficient then relevance will be affected also. In fact one expert in the field of space technology and disaster management went so far as to suggest IDD is reluctant to work too closely with other agencies in the field “because it has so few genuine experts of its own.” One official from a UN agency saw relevance mainly in IDD’s contribution to areas of facilitation such as analysis and advocacy, promotion of regional cooperative mechanisms, EWGs, and inter-governmental networking such as AADMER.

To ensure this report does not accentuate the negative, APCICT confirmed IDD (the back stopping division) as “excellent” in its support and cooperation. At the beginning, according the Director, there was a problem with sharing information, but this has improved. To ensure relevance she believes IDD must focus on key “flagship” areas and would like to see some brainstorming before formal agreements are reached and sees APCICT’s regional partnership meetings a valuable way to feed back to IDD the needs of members. Specialists and experts attend these meetings, whereas diplomats and non-specialists attend the CICT and CDRR.

Up to 2009 IDD back-stopped APCTT in Delhi before it moved to TID. APCTT confirmed they had excellent relations with ICTSD who would give quality advice, recommend resource persons, resolve contract issues, etc. There has been little contact since, and APCTT is not a member of the CICT or CDRR. This would seem to cut off a relevant link in the efforts of IDD to achieve the MDGs/WSIS and HFA goals.

UNAPCAEM, on the other hand, based in Beijing, has little contact with IDD, and only when UNAPCAEM initiate it. Their contact is much more with EDD and TID. “We sometimes feel we are forgotten.”

Surprising was the response from a major regional partner which frequently appears as listed as a project partner. The Thailand country director failed to get a response from the organization’s Disaster Management and Preparedness Office and an email for this Report similarly failed. The country director nevertheless felt there was little understanding within the organization of the work of the IDD and that Committee meeting minutes and the agenda were far too self-referential for non-specialists to follow. He suggested IDD might consider ways to reach out, including running a workshop by way of an introduction.

- Conclusions
1. Overall the response from the survey is positive, but passivity among member States may partially explain the low response rate.
 2. The positives come from the LDCs and LLDCs; the EPO is critical of being ‘sold’ projects; three Developed Countries see IDD work less relevant to them, while one developed country as the sponsor of satellite EWS sees dangers of duplication.
 3. There is genuine concern of IDD over stretching itself and duplicating the work of other agencies.
 4. Doubts have been expressed about how far the Committees can really generate stakeholder feedback to ensure relevance. It is recommended that more direct and frequent channels of communications with line ministries be established and that senior staff be given that responsibility.
 5. Within IDD, there is concern that ICTD has taken too much of a backseat so its relevance is waning and this should be reversed, while Space Technology is struggling to find a distinctive role to avoid becoming just a subset of DRR.
 6. According to a comment from the Reference Group on an earlier draft of this Report, the addition of DRR was added to the work of ICTD and “in principle, both areas should be treated equally” and if activities of DRR were greater “more funds were available”. From the opinions cited above, this Report finds a view within IDD of a different reality: that whether supply or demand driven, resources have been skewed

towards DRR at the expense of a serious commitment to ICTD work.

7. ICTD work is clearly central to ESCAP's mission to fulfill the MDG/WSIS goals. It is therefore recommended that a real commitment be made to reinvigorate ICTD through the allocation of staff time and through the selection of activities and projects; and the process be driven by identifying gaps in MDG/WSIS targets. (See also immediately below.)

2. To what extent is the subprogramme aligned with UN mandates and internationally agreed development goals?

UN mandate In a recent paper 'Planning for 2014-2015: note on an integrated concept of IDD' the Chief of ICTD makes the point that: "Programme planning typically is activity-driven – regional advisory services, workshops and seminar – rather than built around an integrated and people-centred framework that draws on and contributes to ESCAP's overarching corporate vision and objectives, as well as UN mandates at the global level." Consequently, this makes the programme "vulnerable to short term expediencies and ad-hoc considerations... The workprogramme therefore needs to deal principally with threats and risks to human security and sustainable development."

There are two dimensions here: a more integrated approach and a refocusing of ICTD activities around a people-centred framework. Both are in line with responses from interviews and the focus group (see above). But there is one major issue of relevance to consider. Advisory services are very much needs-driven at the request of member States, *ad hoc* and highly relevant to the members receiving this technical assistance who 'own' the findings (see Appendix 6 for details.) As IDD states in its Progress Report on RPTC 2009-2010 "The challenge lies in delivering the services with programmatic approach in such a way which could be 'actionable' by member Country".

Finding a solution to this dilemma is obviously not confined to IDD; what is important is that solving it should not hinder the future direction of the subprogramme.

MDGs/WSIS The online survey responses were all highly favourable (see question 8) with the lowest average weighted score being 3. (For specific comments, see below.)

The CICT November 2008 (para. 5) calls upon IDD to "put in place follow-up mechanisms at the regional level to review the

implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society in 2015.”²⁵ The follow-up report CICT November 2010 announces major steps towards achieving some of the WSIS goals in the Asia Pacific region, especially regard to connectivity, and rightly underscores the importance of spreading affordable access to broadband and its applications. A project proposal to “use ICT for socially-disadvantaged groups...” was announced which was mentioned in interview with SDD and IDD will collaborate. This is a positive development going forward.

Other ICT initiatives that have been flagged are food security (CICT November 2008, para. 74) and “the need to focus on e-strategies including e-government, e-health, e-education as well as the extension of incentives, such as tax and tariff reductions...” (CICT November 2010, para. 22). How these will emerge within the future workprogramme is yet to be seen.

HFA The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015²⁶ is a document of 22 pages of text and covers just about every field of action imaginable. For example, “DRR is a cross-cutting issue in the context of sustainable development ... including those [goals] contained in the Millennium Declaration.” (p.5, para. k) It also applies at all levels, international, regional, sub-regional and national. Basically, it would be difficult for ESCAP and its IDD sub-programme *not* to address at least some of the goals of the HFA.

A good example of IDD’s contribution is ESCAP (2010) ‘Practices in Drought Disaster Monitoring and Early Warning’²⁷ One UN agency and close partner of ESCAP referred to the wide welcome given to the APDR, and although it has been slow to start, the Asia Gateway already contains many useful links for easy communications. The online survey responses were all highly favourable (see question 8) with the lowest average weighted score being 3.

Conclusions

1. The evidence all supports the view that IDD has aligned its work to the goals of the HFA and the MDGs/WSIS according to its UN mandate.
2. The real issue is twofold: (i) the work of ICTD, as has been pointed

²⁵ <http://worldsummit2003.org/>

²⁶ <http://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/hfa>

²⁷ http://www.unescap.org/idd/working%20papers/IDD_TP_10_2_of_WP5_2_902.pdf

out by many staff, has been skewed too far towards supporting DRR work at the expense of other socio-economic activities. This has arisen due to the additional workloads involved without a compensating increase in staffing levels; (ii) the work of DRR has been greatly appreciated but has involved an opportunity cost due to the finite resources of IDD. Mostly funded by XB it has nevertheless drawn IDD resources in a supporting role, an important point made by the focus group.

3. This reinforces the conclusion above regarding the need to reinvigorate the work of the ICTD.

3. To what extent was the subprogramme created synergies with the work of other ESCAP subprogrammes?

Synergies with other subprogramme

Interviews with senior managers offered two views with regard to collaboration leading to synergies. One view confirmed that discussions took place at all levels between staff of IDD and other divisions, and indeed the physical environment at ESCAP HQ is highly conducive to both formal and informal meetings.²⁸ For example, a senior staff from another Division sees the working relationship with IDD as very good in two principal areas of collaboration: damage and loss assessment, and integrating disability into disaster preparedness. The MPDD frequently seeks IDD input, including a forthcoming *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific*.

One of two areas in which it was surprising to find little substantive collaboration was between the Statistics Division and IDD where it would seem to be a natural pairing. A senior staff of the Division confirmed this view. The focus group also suggested that in practice ICTD currently produced very little genuine statistical analysis.

The other area that confirmed little collaboration was EDD and IDD, apart from a recent paper on water resources. The consultant would have expected the issue of 'green' power and energy saving to be an issue of great significance to sustainable development, especially in light of CICT November 2010 where the Committee "called for enhanced attention to cloud sourcing and cloud computing, green ICT..." (para 56.) Another issue that offers itself for collaboration with other divisions is, as one senior staff in IDD suggested, the role of social

²⁸ The semi-open plan working arrangements are excellent, meeting room facilities are generally good, and rest and refreshment areas well provided along with a library, a bank, a medical centre, etc.

media in access to information, especially in relation to emergency situations.

Another view from *within* IDD and expressed from several sources, suggested the division has become somewhat unbalanced with DRR being by far the strongest section (also see above). As a senior official within IDD agreed, the focus has become more technical (meaning a focus on technology and technical outputs) and less developmental (meaning a focus on socio-economic issues). A senior official of another Division said they had difficulty in seeing what the focus of IDD really is, making it difficult to find ways to collaborate, adding that there was not a lot of *intellectual* exchange between divisions.

One suggestion in the focus group was: “ICTD should be allowed to work separately from DRR.” One senior official within IDD during interview suggested that in this regard the Space Technology section would most likely focus less on technology and network architecture issues and more on applications, such as GIS.

From interviews it would appear that the basis of collaboration still seems rooted in the idea of each division contributing its own separate input. For example, the project to promote cross-border trade and investment facilitation through paperless trading is being led by TID and supported by TD and IDD. The interviews indicated that the divisions concerned were exploring two other projects such that each division would take the lead role in one of them. On the face of it this seems to be more concerned with finding projects for the sake of equity between divisions and less concerned with the intrinsic value added that the projects can bring.²⁹

Conclusions

1. Whereas a collaborative approach tends to place the emphasis upon equality, a collective approach would place more emphasis upon overall project management where management can be from any of the partners of the project. For example, a programmatic approach as enshrined in the Organization Effectiveness Initiative or OEI,³⁰ could consider the adoption of a collegiate way of doing things, creating cross-cutting teams of

²⁹ One of projects under consideration is rights of way for transport and telecommunications, and that is an important policy issue. This comment refers to process issues and not activities or projects *per se*.

³⁰ See ESCAP (March 2011) ‘ESCAP Resource Mobilization Strategy 2011-2013’ and ‘Programmatic Approach & Resource Mobilization Strategy’ power-point slides.

professional specialists and technical experts dedicated to specific projects and with a shared 'ownership' of such projects.

2. It is recommended that to make synergies more actual and more 'organic' IDD staff should join staff from other divisions in working groups or teams that 'own' particular projects.

4. How clear is ESCAP's role and mandate in its work related to the subprogramme to key stakeholders?

Mandate	11 responses were "very clear" (5) or "clear" (6) and 3 "unclear", an average weighted score of 3.1. Six respondents made comments and most stressed the importance of the subprogramme to the achievement of the MDGs and the HFA, with one mentioning regional cooperative mechanisms, analytical and technical support. However respondent replied "The work of this subprogram is not clearly known, we are not familiar with any of their publications." One possible reason is that the respondent is new to the work of ESCAP. For example, in an interview the PR of one country explained that she was also a very recent appointment. Interviews with PRs also showed a high degree of awareness.
Conclusions	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Generally a good level of recognition and understanding of ESCAP's mandate in relation to the subprogramme.2. It is recommended that for those who are new to the work of the IDD, that IDD annually offers an induction programme. For example, a director of the one major ESCAP partner supported the idea of sending staff to Bangkok for this purpose. Of course, this could also be an ESCAP-wide programme.

5. To what extent are ESCAP's comparative advantages in the subprogramme area clear to its members, partners and stakeholders?

Comparative advantages	The survey responses, limited though they are, suggest a rather good grasp of the comparative advantages of ESCAP, with an emphasis upon ESCAP's powers to convene high-level meetings and events, and the need for regional cooperation mechanisms. At the same time at least one PR makes the point that with such a diverse membership finding consensus is not an easy task.
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The power to convene through the ICT and DRR Committees seems on

the face of things to enhance the ability of IDD to remain relevant and up-to-date with the concerns of member State. But comments from the Committee meetings themselves suggest that IDD steers the agenda too much and more needs to be done to encourage the active participation and feedback of member States, and make better use of the SROs.

Asia Gateway
for Disaster Risk
Reduction and
Development ³¹

There seem to be decidedly split views on whether the Asian Gateway for Disaster Risk Reduction and Development project represents a comparative advantage for IDD. At the November 2010 CICT delegates “expressed strong support for the launch and further development of the [Gateway] and commended the partnership of the secretariat with Microsoft, UNDP, ADPC and ISDR.” (para. 13).

But at the March 2009 CDRR ‘One delegate noted that the prospect of establishing an Asia-Pacific Gateway on disaster risk reduction and development ... would entail significant expense. Additionally, as many networks had already been developed by other organizations, the duplication of their work should be avoided.’ (para. 46). The two most widely used online networks for DRR are the Prevention website³² run by ISDR and Relief³³ run by UNOCHA. In addition there are sites run by UNDP and the World Bank’s Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction.³⁴ The view that IDD does not hold a comparative advantage in this area was echoed by at least one expert (see 1 above) who suggested IDD is reluctant to work too closely with other agencies in the field “because it has so few genuine experts of its own.”

In interviews, one high income country was very supportive of the Gateway as a resource-efficient means of communicating important papers, data and information to members, while an upper-middle income country questioned if a DRR gateway was not a comparative advantage whether it would be regarded as resource priority going forward.

Using those

There has been criticism by some stakeholders of the way IDD goes

³¹ The consultant frequently had problems accessing the site. For example, 24th February 2012: “Oops! Google Chrome could not find www.drrgateway.net”; firefox “Server not found”; Internet Explorer “cannot display the webpage”. None of these browsers had problems accessing <http://www.unescap.org/> and the Gateway site was accessible through the ESCAP site. These browsers were able to access the site the following day.

³² <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/>

³³ <http://reliefweb.int/>

³⁴ <http://www.beta.undp.org/undp/en/home/ourwork/crisispreventionandrecovery/overview.html> and <http://www.gfdr.org/gfdr/>

advantages? about exploiting its comparative advantages. At the 2nd CICT meeting the delegate from Nepal “suggested that ESCAP should use more participatory methods in promoting regional cooperation.” (para.64).

One UN agency and ESCAP partner sees ESCAP as the “elephant in the room” being the only agency within the region with inter-governmental organization, but “has not taken advantage of that” and should use its powers to convene more “inclusively”.

- Conclusions
1. The comparative advantages of ESCAP in the subprogramme area are generally well understood by members, stakeholders and partners. However, some of them see a problem in the way IDD uses those advantages. Clearly IDD needs to be sensitized to these concerns.
 2. There are specific question marks over the comparative advantage of the Asia Gateway for Disaster Risk Reduction and Development. For DRR issues other sources are more important and have a global reputation. In favour of the Gateway is the view it can be a resource-effective means to disseminate information to a specific audience. But who exactly is that audience? DRR specialists or generalists and if the latter can they influence policy-making in these areas.
 3. It is recommended that IDD consult more directly its member States on their use of the Gateway and where its true value lies for them. This could be done through the SROs.

6. What is ESCAP’s role, strengths and weaknesses, to the extent possible, in comparison to other development actors in the region, including other United Nations entities, in the subprogramme area?

Strengths and Weaknesses The “comment” responses to the survey confirm the view that ESCAP’s convening powers are seen as its major comparative advantage among UN agencies for the promotion of its goals, and also its composition: “strength is the diverse nature and size of its membership. A weakness is the fact that ESCAP is a consensus driven body which makes decision making on substantive issues very hard.”

Some respondents see a weakness in collaboration with partners: “Lack of presence in the Pacific. This is somewhat alleviated by the setup of the office in Fiji, but there are no ICT/DRR staff ... Weak collaboration with Pacific regional orgs but there has been some progress of late on working with PIFS, PITA and SPC. Better collaboration whereby projects are implemented jointly with regional

partners.” A similar view was expressed by another respondent: “in some cases, we think that more coordination with member states and timely delivery of information regarding its ongoing activities are needed... However as far weakness is concerned, I believe that ESCAP must organize and promote meetings, consultation with stakeholders on a regular basis to get fruitful results.”

Follow-through was raised as an issue: “ESCAP provides the best platform for exchange of experience, knowledge and views, for ... identifying the priorities and areas for regional cooperation... However, decisions of ESCAP need more follow-up, monitoring and evaluation of implementation.”

One respondent who saw ESCAP making good progress nevertheless felt that: “Some of the role and comparative advantage of subprograms in different areas are not at all clear. Coordination with regional organizations such as UN entities, ADB and others are not at all clear.”

There are therefore implied criticisms that more could be done or done better.

UN and other agencies

In addition to the ACPR and ICT/DRR Committee online survey, interviews took place with the ITU, UNOCHA, UNDP and ISDR as well as ESCAP-related bodies APCTT, APCICT and UNAPCAEM, and Regional Interagency Working Group on ICT survey returns came from the ITU, the UPU and ICAO APAC Office. The responses from the latter are all positive, with the ICAO referencing IDD’s role in coordinating Face-to-face meetings for them and the ITU commending IDD for “significant efforts and successfully provided and promoted platforms for partnerships with many.” (See Appendix 11 for detailed comments and proposals from ICAO, ITU and UPU.)

But during interviews, the word “arrogance” cropped up three times, once with an ESCAP staff and twice with UN agencies.³⁵ One UN agency in particular feels aggrieved at what they perceive to be a lack of genuine consultation over the joint production of the APDR. Another, which for the most part found IDD collaborative, for example as advisor in Cambodia, mentioned “some staff can be arrogant.” A

³⁵ Jonathan Hampshire ‘Evaluative Review of the ESCAP Pacific Office’ November 2011 also finds “cases where collaboration has been a problematic...”(p.20)

third had no such criticism, but did note that when DRR was added to ICSTD then IDD was short of experienced staff (see above).

As noted above, at least one major ESCAP regional partner seems to be out of touch with IDD which is surprising given the number of projects that involve funding from this organization that have apparently involved IDD support; while UNAPCAEM feels somewhat isolated and APCTT interacts more with other divisions despite the growing relevance ICTs have in food and rural livelihood security. As the back stopping division for APCICT as referenced above the IDD seems to have become much more open which bodes well for the future.

Comparative advantage

Numerous responses to survey questions and interviews have been cited above to indicate that there are many areas in which ESCAP does *not* have comparative advantages. These include (i) the work of specialist UN agencies, many but not all of which – e.g. UNECE – are global (see, for example, those mentioned in 1 above);³⁶ (ii) specialist national agencies that often serve the region or sub-regions, such as Sentinel Asia, CNSA and IGMASS, and (iii) various non-UN specialist bodies at the sub-regional level such as APT and PITA as well as forums such as the regulatory and telecom working groups of ASEAN and APEC and regional organizations such as SAARC and SASEC and aid-funded research centres like LIRNEasia.

IDD should *proactively* leverage its powers of direct access to governments which means making and sustaining *regular* communication with the relevant ministries, national contact points and other national institutions such as research centres. The two Committees cannot serve this purpose, and PRs cannot substitute for line ministry communications with the Capitals.

Conclusions

1. There is no question that all respondents, even those with criticisms, appreciate the importance of ESCAP's role in promoting partnerships and dialogue relation to the subprogramme. The criticisms focus more on how this is done and what the goals are.
2. Others expressed this concern as an issue of clarity. Reading through the many Project Reports it is understandable that the specifics of collaboration are unclear. The consultant finds the Reports rich in analyzing the problems and the need for activities,

³⁶ Another example would be the World Bank's Pacific Region Regulatory Resource Centre to be opened in Suva, referenced CICT November 2010. The WB is a leading agency for policy development globally.

but thin on the ground when it comes to relating activities either to specific targets (such as gender objectives) or to specific collaborations with the organizations who are listed as partners. It is recommended that future Project Reports make these activities specific.

3. There is concern from some respondents about the modalities of IDD, in particular a concern about the real level of commitment to partner involvement and in some cases to what was described as “arrogance.” IDD needs to be more sensitive to these concerns.
4. It is recommended that senior staff make more direct contact with line ministries on a regular basis to maintain closer stakeholder awareness and potentially fruitful feedback from those with the closet involvement in policy making and policy implementation. This should be in some way ‘institutionalized’ within IDD.

Efficiency

7. To what extent does the subprogramme, reflect a realistic assessment of its capacity to deliver under UN budgetary constraints?

The Budget	<p>All but three staff are employed under the Regular Budget (RB). One staff is employed under the RPTC budget and two are Non-Reimbursable Loan (NLR) Experts. The RB allocation for 2008-2009 was \$5,359,400 and utilization was \$5,259,600 or 98%. For 2010-2011 the allocation was \$5,687,500 and utilization \$5,482,400 or 96%. The RPTC budget employed one internationally recognized regional adviser from October 2009 through to today. (See Appendix 5)</p> <p>The only budget item that was >100 (106%) was RPTC 2008-2009 due to the seniority (and expertise) of the staff appointed. Under UN financial rules allocations can be exceed in some cases so long as the overall ESCAP budget is kept within bounds. The over-budget in RPTC was \$2,600 and the within-budget in RB for the biennium was \$304,900. Very clearly IDD has been operating within budget and maintaining a very active programme. (See list of publications above and Appendix 7, Table A7.4 as evidence.)</p>
Survey results	<p>Q5 of the online survey (Appendix 11) asks about the time and resources put in by the subprogramme. The weighted average scores (ICTD 2.7; DRR 2.6; Space Technology 2.4) suggest a mixed response. The ‘don’t knows’ figure large in the assessment of ICTD and Space Technology, and there is a ‘too much’ response in the cases of DRR and Space Technology. There is a wide variation among respondents, some answering ‘too little’, some ‘too much’ and some ‘don’t know’.</p>

The Committees achieve the highest weighted average score (2.9) indicating that communication with the members is highly rated. 'Analytical work' and 'regional cooperative mechanisms' both score (2.8) followed by 'Capacity development' (2.7) with 3 'too little' and then 'Advisory services' (2.4) where the answers are overwhelmed by 5 'don't knows'.

If efficiency is to be judge in terms of whether sufficient or insufficient resources are devoted to particular activities there is no clear answer from the respondents.

- Conclusions
1. The evidence from funding of staff and of a highly commendable work rate and outputs as evidenced in the Appendices is that IDD is using its resources efficiently and the budget truly reflects its capacity to deliver.
 2. The most sensible interpretation of the survey results is simply that respondents have different priorities among themselves for resource allocations to different activities. Given resource limitations, one of the outcomes has inevitably been an opportunity cost: more on DRR, less on other activities.

8. How cost-effective is the subprogramme given the budget (both regular budget and extra-budgetary) allocated to deliver it?

Staff and the Activities Rate The Regular Budget, mainly for staff salaries, rose from \$5,259,600 to \$5,482,400 over the biennium 2008-2009/2010-2011, an increase of 4% (see Appendix 5, Table A5.1). The XB funds for technical cooperation activities rose by 42% over the same period. Professional staff allocation was 14 throughout the period, and rarely fell below that as staff-in-post, while general staff allocation and staff-in-post was 7 for 2008-2009, and 10 for 2009-2010 after the addition of DRR (sees Appendix 13, Table A13.1). This means the same staffing level was supporting more activities, most of which were paid from the XB account. The resources devoted to Activities funded from the Regular and RPTC budgets fell slightly by 4%.

Delivery rate The delivery rates (see Appendix 5, Table A5.2) for the RB for staffing 2008-2009 and 2010-2011 are 98% and 96%, and for activities 99% and 88%. The decline in the latter presumably reflects the opportunity cost as staff resources were committed to supporting XB project work.

The delivery rates (see Appendix 5, Table A5.3) for the RPTC budget for staffing 2008-2009 and 2010-2011 are +100% and 99% (see above) and for activities 87% and 69%. The reason seems to have been some training activities in the Pacific having been postponed.

Within the XB expenditures the Project Reports suggest delivery rates ranging from 62% to 102%.

Conclusions

1. Staff productivity seems to have risen over the biennium when staff numbers and activities are compared, supporting the view that the programme is cost-effective.
2. RB delivery rates are all close to 100%. RPTC delivery rates are somewhat lower, reflecting the more contingent nature of technical advisory work. XB delivery rates, which are more concern to donors, vary but most are very high.

9. To what extent are there management, administrative or operational bottlenecks in the subprogramme that hamper its contribution to the work of ESCAP as a whole?

Bottlenecks

The consultant found no bottleneck that was specific to IDD. The primary bottleneck that afflicts most bureaucracies including UN bodies is the dominance of procedure which is understandable given the accountability issues involved, but it is only efficient if it produces better results. So for example delay in recruitment is frequently seen as a bottleneck.

There are however three issues that are worth pointing to. First, the self-referential ways in which items are raised in CICT and CDRR. There is a 'bottleneck' of language in the minutes with repeated long-winded references to official documents and previous decisions which causes frustration among at least some participants (see above and Appendix 12) although since many of them are diplomats they are probably used to it. But it takes up a lot of valuable time that could otherwise be used to explore the real needs of members.

Second, the writing of project documents, project progress/terminal reports often fails to relate specific activities to specific objectives. Outputs are far too often bland reference to meetings or workshops with rarely any qualitative information, and even more rarely information about longer term outcomes. It is therefore difficult to make a judgment about the efficiency of these activities.

Third, ESCAP and IDD work within tight financial controls which are complex insofar as different sources of funding have different cycles and are put to different uses. This complexity is currently reflected in the way financial data is assembled, for example, for the purposes of this Report which even an ESCAP insider referred to as confusing. It is

also the case that there is no institutionally agreed way to value in-kind contributions, and yet these are significant to support many of the XB-funded projects.

- Conclusions
1. Committee meetings should be restructured (see above) to prioritize actionable items and feedback on them
 2. Report writing needs an overhaul to conform to the M&E guidelines of ESCAP to make the efficiency and effectiveness of the activities more transparent
 3. Ways to make what is a complicated the financial reporting system more transparent and therefore more manageable should be encouraged

Effectiveness

10. To what extent were the subprogramme and activities effective in achieving the development results contained in the ESCAP's programmes of work?

Modalities

The ACPR and Committees survey returned positive views about the way in which the subprogramme was delivered. The weighted average scores were ICT 3.4; DRR 3.2; Space Technology 2.8 suggesting respondents are overall satisfied with the modalities.

The weighted average for the Committees, for Analytical work and fore regional cooperative mechanisms was 3.2 and for Capacity development/technical assistance 3.1, all solid, while Advisory services scored lower at 2.8. But evidence from other sources as seen above raise some questions marks. First, given the composition of the Committees, mostly PRs with a diplomatic function, they are quite limited in the feedback they can offer IDD and almost inevitably the proceedings will be dominated by the better resourced member States. In many cases member States do not even attend. This raises the question, should more be done to attract them and assist them to attend.

Second, can the work of the Committees be supplemented by additional feedback mechanisms? APCICT's regional partners meetings are one source of good feedback. More direct and regular contact with Capitals and line ministries was suggested above as another. Regional cooperative mechanisms and regional interagency working groups are a third. But the information from these sources of feedback needs to

	be systematically processed and fed into stakeholder dialogue.
Catalytic effects of ICT activities	<p>Respondents were asked whether various ICT-driven activities had been catalytic in their effects towards achieving the MDGs/WSIS goals. The highest average weighted score went to ‘ICTs for disaster risk reduction and emergency communications’ and ‘ICT for greater gender equality and opportunity’ (3.5) but six ‘don’t knows’ for gender was also the highest.</p> <p>Next came ‘ICTs for raising the economic and social security of the socially-disadvantaged’ (3.4) followed by ‘ICT connectivity’, ‘Providing access to and promoting regional collaboration in disaster early warning systems’ and ‘ICT capacity building’ (3.3) although the latter with rather more ‘don’t knows’ than might be expected.</p> <p>Lower down the ranking were ‘ICT statistical tools for mapping socio-economic development’ (3.2) with five ‘don’t knows’,</p> <p>ICT for sustainable agriculture and food security: The weighted average (3.1) is not strong but includes two ‘strongly agree’, one ‘strongly disagree’ and five ‘don’t knows’, and ‘ICT collaboration with the private sector’ (3.2) with three ‘strongly agree’ and one ‘strongly disagree’. The lowest score went to ‘Alignment of the work of the ESCAP Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development’ (3.0) with only seven positives, one negative and five ‘don’t knows’.</p> <p>In the ‘comments box’ several respondents agreed that the subprogramme components have made a positive contribution towards the MDG and HFA goals. Others were more critical: “some activities in this subprogram (e.g. gender implications, statistical data, etc.) should be more ‘catalyst’ in order to make the subprogramme fully effective for member states.” Another: “May need a more focus with clear tangible benefits rather than just a number of trainings and meetings”. Others argued for sharing more programme information and encouraging public-private partnerships.</p>
Catalytic effects of DRR activities	<p>Respondents were asked whether various ICT-driven activities had been catalytic in their effects towards achieving the HFA goals. The highest average weighted score went to ‘Space application training and use of satellite imagery for monitoring disasters’, ‘Promotion of the systematic collection and analysis of data on small disasters, including the use of standards, methodologies and guidelines for DRR’, and</p>

‘Promotion of national capacity building for collection and processing of data on hazard and vulnerability assessments, disaster preparedness and mitigation and contingency planning’ (3.3).

Below these came ‘Provision and promotion of training in practical social and economic disaster assessment methodologies’ and ‘Promotion of workshops on best practices for providing “last mile” capacity building for early warning of disasters’ (3.2)

Coming last were ‘Engagement and particular support for capacity building and regional cooperation in DRR for SIDS and LLDCs’ (3.1) and ‘Promotion of special attention to gender issues and socio-economic issues in DRR’ (3.0), with six ‘don’t knows’.

In the ‘comments box’ several responses range from acknowledgement of the importance of the subprogrammes to an appeal for more attention to LLDS to the need for more hazard data sharing to training and technical assistance in DRR. One respondent would prefer more qualified answers because “most are partially contributing.”

Interviews

One communications-focused UN agency sees the effectiveness of ESCAP and IDD in its access to line ministries to support policy initiatives such as industry standards, emergency communications, policy guidelines and especially awareness-raising. An important regional funding partner saw IDD being effective “on the soft side” of flood EWS. Another UN agency said it was too early to judge the effectiveness of IDD as most of its own work is done inhouse. A major disaster would be the real test. It saw ICT, Space and DRR as equally important for effective work, but stressed the need for good statistical data.

APCICT saw the effectiveness of IDD being determined by how responsive it is to members’ needs, and the synergy between IDD policy formulation and APCICT’s training focus was a virtuous loop in this regard. APCICT, like the APCTT, is no longer involved in the Committees which so some extent illustrates the limitations of the Committees, namely they do not involve many hands-on ‘activists’.

Conclusions

1. With regard to the work on HFA issues the feedback from interviews, the survey returns and documents is overwhelmingly positive, especially with regard to emergency responses to actual disasters, such as the floods in Pakistan. The catalytic achievements

of ESCAP are prominent here. The areas in which most concern is expressed are (i) the slow pace of development of early warning systems (EWS) – which as an operational issue is somewhat out of the hands of IDD; and (ii) the functioning of regional cooperative mechanisms. Concerns with regional cooperative mechanism seem to be (a) their focus, for example one PR would like to see the role of Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (RESAP) more clearly defined and the lowest weighted average score in Q7 of the survey relates to the alignment of RESAP; and (b) the level of participation encouraged at the subregional level with concerns being raised from the Pacific and a comment from Nepal (see above). Regional cooperative mechanisms are given a high rating in the scale of relevance so this is an important issue to get right.

2. The feedback with regard to work on the MDGs is very slightly more mixed, although respondents see IDD’s work in a positive light. The concerns come out from the relatively weaker average weighted scores for different activities, for example, Q7.11 ‘ICT collaboration with the private sector’, Q7.13 ‘ICT statistical tools for mapping socio-economic development’. The weighted average score for gender issues is the lowest in Q8 and fractionally above it is the weighted average on ‘capacity building and regional cooperation in DRR for SIDS and LLDS.’ The gender issue also comes up also in Q7.4 and Q9 and overall is marked by a large number of ‘don’t knows’. As noted above, one interpretation of these results –which have no statistical significance it must be stressed – is that some respondents feel the balance of IDD work insufficiently covers the socio-economic issues involved.
3. It is recommended that Committee meetings are made more assessable in terms of materials distributed and the structure of the events to attract a higher level of participation. Currently, they are not seen as sufficiently relevant for member States to devote time and resources to attending them.

11. How effective was the subprogramme and activities in collaboration with other subprogrammes in ESCAP?

Collaboration	Under the OEI and with the introduction of a programmatic approach to work activities, the past experience of IDD’s collaboration with other divisions is a basis for forward planning. However, although there is
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evidence of past and/or currently planned collaboration with TD and TID, with MPDD and ESID, with EDD, SDD and the Statistics division, few give the appearance of a strategic focus going forward. Interviews with senior staff of other Divisions confirmed that even when collaboration was frequent, as between MPDD and IDD, they were not based upon a long term strategic partnership. They mostly appear as one-offs, such as IDD's inputs into the work of MPDD. The 'paperless trading' project with TD and TID does suggest a way forward as it is closely linked with regional cooperation and therefore could have a direct influence at the operational level. The project being discussed on rights of way for transport and telecommunications also sounds promising.

Conclusions The immediate advantage of a more collegiate approach based upon teams made up from different divisions is the idea that the team (and those delegated with the responsibility) would be very conscious of the need for a conceptualization and planning process that involves M&E, that very clearly determines from the outset what are the relevant MDGs and/or HFA targets, and 'owns' the project such that delivery and impact are equally important issues to be assessed and recorded.³⁷ It would also dovetail nicely with the proposal above to develop closer, frequent and regular communications with line ministries (and other national bodies such as research institutes) leading to more relevant as well as more effective activities.

12. To what extent was gender equality reflected in activities and results?

Gender The weighted average response to Q9 (3.2) is not too strong, with five 'don't knows'. The weighted average scores for the gender question in Q7.4 and Q8.5 were 3.5 and 3.0 respectively. There were a large number of 'don't knows' in each case, suggesting at best that gender is not effectively mainstreamed in the minds of these respondents. In the 'comments' box 3 respondents feel the subprogramme encourages women to participate, and one feels this is not very effective.

In reading through all the Project Reports for the period the consultant could find little direct evidence that gender issues receive much attention beyond lip-service. 'Expected accomplishments' include numerical 'targets' to increase the number of women participating in

³⁷ Another advantage would be a more integrated approach to project work which could resonate with member States and their respective line ministries whenever a holistic approach to policy is desirable.

meetings, but fail on two counts: first, no activities are listed to achieve these targets; second, no activities are listed to address the gender issues.

Two further observations are therefore worth making. First, not all projects will necessarily include gender issues and it is just as well therefore to be explicit about this. The alternative is tokenism, but it follows that some projects should make explicit efforts to address gender issues. Second, gender is one of several important socio-economic issues; people of disability, people in poverty, people in remote areas, etc., are all among the especially vulnerable to natural disasters and to economic and social marginalization.

Conclusions

1. Gender is a cross-cutting issue and the empowerment of women is demonstrably the most effective way to empower communities. This is not a moral argument, it is a practical one. Simply put, women in the main cannot afford to be socially irresponsible. They get drunk less than men, they are more thrifty than men, they spend more time caring for children and elderly persons than men, etc.
2. Unfortunately, there is not much evidence in reality of IDD mainstreaming gender issues in its work programme for 2008-2011. It is recommended that this issue is given high priority in the programmatic approach going forward.

13. To what extent did the subprogramme and activities collaborate with other international organizations, including UN Country Teams or UN regional organizations in planning and implementing activities?

Problems

Answers to the online survey Q10 gave a weighted average score of 3.3 to the proposition that the subprogramme fully engages with stakeholders which includes other UN bodies. Clearly this result does not fully reflect the criticisms of some of the partnering organizations. However, despite one agency expressing annoyance at the way it feels it was cut out of the APDR editorial process (it “had to fight tooth and nail” because IDD “treated everything as top secret” yet not have the resources to cover all the topics) the final report was well received. The agency also collaborates with IDD on committees such as the Typhoon Committee and International Day for Disaster Reduction (13 October).

Tokenism vs. the Real Thing

There is however a danger of tokenism that creeps into the project reports. Often a long list of collaborating organizations is included, yet the project progress reports do not always refer to them. In many

cases it may be no more than extending invitations to workshops or meetings, which is important, but not very substantial as an activity and with no known outcomes. For example, between 2008 and 2011, IDD mentions one agency as a partner no fewer than 8 times and another 5 times, but it is far from clear in these reports what that amounted to in practice. When asked about it neither agency was sufficiently knowledgeable or able to supply details from their part.

At the formal level collaboration is extensive as reflected in the project reports and the Committee reports. What is often – certainly not always –missing from these reports are details of specific activities involving these organizations and their expected outcomes. This inevitably gives rise to the suspicion – maybe unjustified – that many these references to collaboration may be report padding or tokenism. The blandness of many of the ‘Expected Accomplishments’ of course allows IDD great flexibility in claiming successful outcomes.

Quantitative measures are almost invariably focused on the *number* of meetings, the *number* of participants, etc., without regard to the actual immediate ‘outputs’ or the longer-terms effects upon behaviour (the ‘outcomes’). Qualitative measures are usually confined to statements of satisfaction with outputs or equally bland confirmation that participants found it “useful”. None of this is very rigorous in terms of making value judgments.

Conclusions

1. IDD sometimes needs to be sensitized to partners in a transparent manner
2. Collaboration does not just need to be done, it needs to be seen to be done.

Conclusions and Recommendations

1. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E): Evaluations for a result-based environment must focus on the outcomes for the beneficiaries and not just the outputs of the service delivery. Currently project documents and progress/terminal reports have three major weaknesses. First, they focus too much on, often bland, quantitative measures of outputs (such as the number of workshops) without a qualitative assessment of what was achieved. Second, they do not relate specific activities to specific targets, such as mainstreaming gender issues, with the result they read like tokenism. The detail of activities with partnering organizations should also be specified to identify the value-added by IDD. Drawing up long lists of “partners” should be avoided as window-dressing. Third, they lack a longer term perspective of outcomes, or changes in behaviour that resulted from the outputs. The latter would require follow-up and close collaboration with the stakeholders involved.

a. It is recommended that IDD review the manner in which reports relating to projects are undertaken to address these three specific points.

a. It is recommended that the evaluation of *outcomes* of activities and projects resulting from their *outputs* should be a key aim of IDD. Achieving this aim will require the active participation of the key beneficiaries and stakeholders, for example of line ministries or research institutions, who can play a role in assessing the long-run results such as changes in behaviour or in policies or in the manner in which policies are implemented. One way of achieving this could be to assign ‘project management’ responsibilities to key professional staff for day-to-day management of specific projects or parts of projects that would involve them in regular communication with stakeholders for the duration of the monitoring and evaluation period.

2. Committees: IDD is the only division with two committees and a considerable effort goes into making them function well. This Report finds that while they are greatly appreciated some PRs are frustrated by what they regard as too many self-referential formalities, insufficient discussion of substantive issues and too much passivity among member States. This Report also finds that while there is a wide recognition and understanding of the work of ESCAP and its subprogramme among the representatives of active member States, others are less familiar, especially where they are new to their job. This also applies to some partnering organizations, somewhat surprisingly to a major funding organization for example. It is also the case that many member States are not represented at Committee meetings, notably but not exclusively the low income member States.

a. It is recommended that IDD explore ways to enhance awareness and participation of member States and other stakeholders in the work of IDD, including through offering an annual induction event for member States.

- b. It is recommended that IDD explore ways to attract wider participation in Committee meetings. The following actions are suggested: (i) establish a travel/accommodation pool of funds to assist lower-income member States to participate, or alternatively explore ways in which higher-income members can partner with lower-income members to assist their attendance; (ii) use teleconferencing to connect member States who cannot attend in person; (iii) set agenda items so that subregional issues are clustered, are timed for maximum convenience of low-income member States and papers in major local languages circulated well in advance. Although IDD's focus is regional, it makes sense to acknowledge the primary areas of interest for many member States are subregional.

Looking Forward

3. IDD comparative advantages: This Report finds that although the initial intention of adding DRR to ICSTD was to broaden rather than shift the focus of the division, the reality is different. Staff time ("payment-in-kind") is used to support XB-funded projects which are overwhelmingly DRR-focused. In theory this should not be such an issue if the socio-economic aspects of HFA goals were fully represented in these projects, but the evidence suggests they are oriented more to technical than to socio-economic issues.³⁸ Because resources are constrained it does seem that the opportunity cost has been a lesser emphasis on the socio-economic work activities of ICTD over the biennium.

ESCAP stands for 'Economic' and 'Social'. We live in an age when ICTs are fundamental to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development and the achievement of the MDGs is a task not yet accomplished. With regard to the goals of the HFA it is recommended that IDD specifically target the economic and social aspects of disaster risk reduction. With regard to the MDG/WSIS goals it is recommended that IDD raise the profile of the normative and analytical work and information-sharing of ICT and Space issues in this area. This is a resource-efficient way to enhance the reputation of IDD. But it is important that the information shared is based on well-grounded and high quality research findings from IDD or other sources. Quality assurance is a very important part of it.

- a. It is recommended that IDD staff work activities related to the "Economic and Social" aspects of the ESCAP subprogramme using a people-centric approach receive more support. To leverage the comparative advantage of IDD in the field of ICTs (ICTD and Space Technologies) a focus on two closely related areas of policy advice and facilitation makes sense: on sustainable economic and social development and bringing the benefits of that development to the most disadvantaged and

³⁸ At the focus group discussion staff expressed concern that work on ICTs had been marginalized as resources were deployed elsewhere within the division.

marginalized people in the community.³⁹ For example, the promotion of affordable ICT development in rural areas for Internet access for communications, social media, e-services, e-commerce, trade and investment, etc., and the regional connectivity project currently proposed jointly with TD and TID.

- b. It is recommended that a minimum funding level is set for staff time devoted to activities in support of the socio-economic agenda to safeguard against 'shift drift' away from environmental and towards technical concerns. This does *not* mean that less support for DRR activities which are focused on socio-economic issues.

4. Collaboration with partners: This Report finds there are areas – *few in number* – in which the modalities of working with partners are in need of review and improvement. But in general IDD has a good track record in working with other organizations. IDD also has many partners, such as the ADB and the ITU, who work closely with NGOs and the private sector. The programmatic approach of ESCAP places importance on integrating large scale projects with different modes of funding.⁴⁰ IDD works in an area in which the private sector is both dominant and dynamic.

- a. It is recommended that IDD assign a senior staff with responsibility to liaise with other UN agencies, partner organizations and the private sector to explore common interests and modalities, including ways to initiate public-private partnerships within the rules of ESCAP and the UN.⁴¹

5. Duplication: This Report finds concerns were held by a number of respondents and also recorded in the Committee reports that IDD risked duplicating the work of other UN and non-UN agencies and organizations. In the field of ICTs the private sector and many official agencies, for example the ITU, APT, APECTEL, the ADB, national space agencies, etc., are involved in promoting the building of ICT infrastructure, the deployment of devices and applications. Equally, in the field of DRR there are many national and regional organizations and agencies at work. In this regard some member States and interviewees questioned whether the Asia-Pacific Gateway for Disaster Risk Reduction and Development was at risk of duplicating other websites devoted to DRR. It should be noted that if duplication has a marginal cost close to zero, for example, if the Gateway receives feeds from and provides links to other sources of information, then the opportunity cost to IDD of providing the

³⁹ As outlined by the Executive Secretary Dr Noeleen Heyser in 2010, "A project is being formulated at the secretariat to use ICT for socially-disadvantaged groups such as the disabled, the elderly, women and children, so they might better connect with society." *Welcome Statement*, CICT November 2010, p.3

⁴⁰ ESCAP (March 2011) 'Programmatic Approach & Resource Mobilization Strategy' power-point presentation

⁴¹ Working with ASEAN and the APT to progress the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for equipment type approval, with ASEAN to promote the 2015 Master Plan on Connectivity and with APECTEL on the harmonization of ICT standards are examples where public-private partnerships suggest themselves..

benefits of a 'one-stop shop' for member States could be low; but the value-added has to come from areas of policy and legislative information

While significant progress towards the achievement of the MDGs in Asia has been made in terms of ICT access as a recent ESCAP/ADB/UNDP report reveals,⁴² closing the digital divide and other MDGs remain to be accomplished. Therefore IDD's normative and advocacy work supported by well-grounded analysis and reports remains highly relevant to the needs of member States, and can be especially effective if it gels in a holistic way with the efforts of other agencies and organizations, with NGOs and the private sector.

- a. It is recommended that IDD undertake a systematic assessment of activities and projects that seem to overlap substantially with the work of other agencies and organizations with a view to rationalizing IDD's commitments. For example, by appointing a senior staff to undertake a stocktake of IDD own contributions to the MDGs – which according to the Project Reports (Appendix 6) and the evidence of IDD's publications (see text) looks quite *ad hoc* – and identify the gaps to which IDD can most realistically hope to make a contribution. Such a stocktake could also be used to identify duplication of work by other agencies by asking the question when IDD partners with other agencies and organizations: without the support of IDD would the outputs and outcomes have been very different? For example, does IDD offer anything unique in DRR training courses or in reporting on ICT penetration and usage rates across the region when there are many other organizations and agencies doing the same? The answer in these two cases would seem to be not.
- b. It is recommended that IDD communicate definitively the value-added of the Asia Gateway in terms of policy and legislative issues and consult stakeholders on the nature and type of information and access on the Asia-Gateway that would most add value to its future development and make its contribution notably distinctive. This could include whether it remains a one-directional channel of communication or a two-directional channel of feedback, but the latter would be more resource-intensive.

7. Gender: The Report finds although the issue of gender sensitivity should be an integral component of IDD programmes and related projects this is only very partially the case. For example, gender as an issue receives little attention beyond lip-service in Project Reports. Two observations are therefore worth making. First, not all projects will necessarily include gender issues and it is just as well therefore to be explicit about this. The alternative is tokenism; but it also follows that some projects should make explicit efforts to address gender issues. For example, projects addressing access to ICT education and skills training

⁴² ESCAP/ADB/UNDP (2012) *Accelerating Equitable Achievement of the MDGs: The Asia-Pacific MDG Report 2011/12* <http://beta.adb.org/sites/default/files/equitable-achievement-mdgs.pdf>

should specifically address the issue of equal access and make provision for research into impediments and ways to tackle them. Second, gender is one of several important socio-economic issues; people of disability, people in poverty, people in remote areas, etc., are all among the especially vulnerable to natural disasters and to economic and social marginalization. But gender is a cross-cutting issue and the empowerment of women is demonstrably the most effective way to empower communities (the practical argument). There is not much evidence of IDD mainstreaming gender issues 2008-2011.

- a. It is recommended that IDD mainstream gender issues in a much more explicit way in recognition of the central role women will play in the achievement of the MDGs

Appendix 1: Terms of reference

Evaluation of the ESCAP subprogramme on Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the evaluation

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is the regional arm of the United Nations for the Asia-Pacific. Established in 1947, ESCAP is headquartered in Bangkok and has a membership of 62 Governments. As the largest United Nations body serving the Asian and Pacific region, ESCAP provides an intergovernmental forum to discuss regional issues for its members. The current ESCAP's programme of work (2010-2011) is comprised of an integrated number of eight subprogramme areas which are interlinked to the priorities of member States and in line with the new intergovernmental conference structure of the Commission as adopted by the member States through resolution 64/1.

The Information and communication technology and disaster risk reduction (subprogramme 5) aims at strengthening regional cooperation for the improved management of disasters and associated socio-economic risks and to promote application of information and communications technology for socio-economic development in the ESCAP region. The substantive responsibility for the subprogramme lies with the Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD).

Pursuant to resolution 66/15 on "Strengthening of the evaluation function of the secretariat of the Commission", the secretariat is requested to ensure that ESCAP's programmatic work, including the work of divisions, subregional offices and regional institutions, is evaluated periodically. The Commission has prioritized evaluation as a significant way to strengthen accountability of the secretariat to member States and associate members by providing systematic, evidence-based information to support the performance and relevance of the activities and strategic operations of the secretariat, which are meant to assist countries in achieving development results in pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals and beyond, in Asia and the Pacific.

Furthermore, ESCAP is undertaking an Organizational Effectiveness Initiative (OEI), led by the Office of the Executive Secretary and Senior Management Team (SMT) to reinforce and strengthen the relevance and impact of ESCAP's work. The OEI intends to enhance the secretariat's endeavour to delivering services to support the needs of the region within an inclusive, sustainable development framework.

1.2 Purpose and objectives

The evaluation is conducted to ascertain ESCAP's comparative advantages in delivering its programme of work under the subprogramme 5 on Information and communication technology and disaster risk reduction. The evaluation will be used to assess the relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency of the organization's work in this specific subprogramme. The findings and recommendations are expected to inform ESCAP programming strategies and

enhance its contribution to development results. In addition, the evaluation will provide insights for ESCAP in its future work on information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction.

The specific objectives are:

- a) To assess the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the subprogramme, including its projects and activities;
- b) To determine the extent to which the work of ESCAP in this specific subprogramme was complementary and value-added to the work of other relevant international and regional organizations;
- c) To identify strengths and weaknesses of the subprogramme in order to come up with actionable recommendations for improvement;
- d) To draw lessons from the experience of the subprogramme that could contribute to learning at ESCAP.

1.3 Scope

Scope of the evaluation

The evaluation will assess relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the subprogramme using the evaluation criteria stated below, coupled with the Expected Accomplishments during the two biennium from 2008-09 to 2010-11, as the overall results framework for reference, and make recommendations that could assist the secretariat's drafting of the Strategic Framework for 2014-2015.

The following main evaluation criteria and evaluation questions should be addressed:

- **Relevance**
 - To what extent did the subprogramme meet the needs of member and associate member States?
 - To what extent is the subprogramme aligned with UN mandates and internationally agreed development goals?
 - To what extent has the subprogramme created synergies with the work of other ESCAP subprogrammes?
 - How clear is ESCAP's role and mandate in its work related to the subprogramme to key stakeholders?
 - To what extent are ESCAP's comparative advantages in the subprogramme area clear to its members, partners and stakeholders?
 - What is ESCAP's role, strengths and weaknesses, to the extent possible, in comparison to other development actors in the region, including other United Nations entities, in the subprogramme area?

- **Efficiency**
 - To what extent does the subprogramme, reflect a realistic assessment of its capacity to deliver under UN budgetary constraints?
 - How cost-effective is the subprogramme given the budget (both regular budget and extra-budgetary) allocated to deliver it?
 - To what extent are there management, administrative or operational bottlenecks in the subprogramme that hamper its contribution to the work of ESCAP as a whole?
- **Effectiveness**
 - To what extent were the subprogramme and activities effective in achieving the development results contained in the ESCAP's programmes of work?
 - How effective was the subprogramme and activities in collaborating with other subprogrammes in ESCAP?
 - To what extent was gender equality reflected in activities and results?
 - To what extent did the subprogramme and activities collaborate with other international organizations, including UN Country Teams or UN regional organizations in planning and implementing activities?

Deliverables:

The following outputs will be delivered to the Programme Management Division of the ESCAP secretariat:

1. Evaluation work plan and framework detailing the approach of the evaluator
2. On-line survey
3. First draft and final evaluation reports
4. Presentation (ppt) on the findings, conclusions and recommendations

The draft evaluation report, including preliminary findings and recommendations, will be shared with key stakeholders prior to finalization. The final report, which will include a management response from the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, will be submitted to the Commission in the format of an official document. The final evaluation report will also be circulated within the ESCAP secretariat and posted on ESCAP's public website.

2. METHODOLOGY

The evaluation team is expected to undertake the evaluation in as rigorous manner as possible to produce useful information and formulate action-based recommendations. The team is expected to produce evidence-based data and utilize appropriate approaches of data collection methods and analysis. The team will undertake a transparent and participatory evaluation process that will involve staff, including the Reference Group, partners and target beneficiaries (if these have been adequately identified) in all key

evaluation tasks. It will follow the UNEG evaluation norms and standards as set out in ESCAP's M&E Guidelines⁴³,

The evaluation methodology guidelines will cover but not limited the following:

1. A desk review of secondary documents, including the ESCAP's programme of work, relevant project documents and progress reports, relevant ESCAP evaluation reports (to be provided by the evaluation manager);
2. Missions to ESCAP in Bangkok to conduct face-to-face key-informant interviews/focus group discussions with ESCAP staff, partner institutions and member states;
3. An on-line survey to relevant stakeholders;
4. Follow-up telephone interviews as may be required to clarify responses provided through the on-line questionnaire.

2.2 Limitations

The limitations of the evaluations include:

- Country visits will normally not be possible due to financial constraints.

2.3 Evaluation team

The evaluation team will consist of a lead evaluator and an evaluation assistant. The **lead evaluator** will assume overall responsibility for carrying out the evaluation. This includes, among other activities, managing the work of the team, acting as a spokesperson for the team, ensuring the quality of interviews and information gathering, facilitating the preparation of the draft report, presenting the draft report and producing the final report after comments have been received.

The **evaluation assistant** will assist the lead evaluator in developing an evaluation work plan and framework, preparing and conducting an online survey, collecting and analyzing responses from stakeholders and drafting the evaluation report. Apart from having a strong evaluation background, it is desirable that the assistant has relevant background and experiences on ICT and disaster risk reduction.

The evaluators should be familiar with evaluation methodologies and should have proven expertise in conducting evaluations. Ideally, they should have experience in conducting evaluations of a highly political and sensitive nature.

In addition, the evaluators should have extensive knowledge and experience of:

- The United Nations system, including (i) its programme, conference and organizational structures;
- ESCAP, including (i) its programme, conference and organizational structure;

⁴³ Accessible through: <www.unescap.org/pmd/evaluation/evaluation_system.asp>.

- The Asia-Pacific region, including major development trends and issues, particularly in the areas of information and communication technology as well as on disaster risk reduction;
- The Asia-Pacific development community, including the priorities and mandates of major development players including bilateral donors and multilateral organizations, both within the United Nations system and beyond, as well as major NGOs.

It is essential that the evaluators have an excellent command of the English language, both written and oral, and should have demonstrated their ability to communicate results effectively.

Appendix 2: List of Documents

ESCAP (2003) 'Evaluation of UNESCAP's Pacific Operations Centre' March 2003 by A.V.Hughes
ESCAP 'Official Records of the General Assembly', 61st Session, Supplement No.6 (A/61/6/Rev.1)
<https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/WG-GOVandFin/WGGovFin-UNODC-A-62-6-Section16.pdf>
ESCAP 'Official Records of the General Assembly', 63rd Session, Supplement No.6 (A/63/6/Rev.1)
<http://www.unhcr.org/4af2f5979.pdf>
ESCAP (2008) *Regional Mapping Study: Priority Areas of Work in the Regional Programmes of United Nations Entities in Asia and the Pacific for 2008-2009*, prepared for the UN Asia-Pacific Regional Coordinating Mechanism, Bangkok, June 2008.
ESCAP/ISDR (2010) '*The Asia Pacific Disaster Report 2010*'
ESCAP (2010) *Practices in Drought Disaster Monitoring and Early Warning*
ESCAP (March 2011) *ESCAP Resource Mobilization Strategy 2011-2013*
ESCAP (March 2011) Programmatic Approach & Resource Mobilization Strategy (power-point slides)
ESCAP (April 2011) *Revised Draft 'ESCAP Capacity Development Strategy: A programmatic approach for 2011-2013'* Resolution 64/1
ESCAP (2011) *Evaluative Review of the ESCAP Trust Fund for Tsunami*, September 2011 by F. Yasemin Aysan
ESCAP (2011) 'Evaluative Review of the ESCAP Pacific Office' November 2011 by Jonathan Hampshire
ESCAP (March 2011) 'ESCAP Resource Mobilization Strategy 2011-2013' and 'Programmatic Approach & Resource Mobilization Strategy' power-point slides.
Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters in Asia and the Pacific <http://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/hfa>
UN Millennium Development Goals
<http://www.beta.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/mdgoverview.html>
UN (2006) 'Delivering as One: Report of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Conference, 2006' <http://www.un.org/events/panel/>
UN World Summit for the Information Society (WSIS) <http://worldsummit2003.org/>
UN (2009) Report of the UN Secretary General on the 'Programme performance report of the United Nations for the biennium 2008-2009'

Other

ESCAP Work Programme and related documents
IDD Project Reports
ICT and DRR Committee minutes
ESCAP internal financial summaries and other related documents

Appendix 3: Interviews

Dr. Noeleen Heyzer	Executive Secretary, ESCAP
Mr. Shun-ichi Murata	Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCAP
Reference Group	Ms. Tiziana Bonapace (IDD) Mr. Jurgen Gafke (PPD) Mr. Edgar Dante (PPD) Mr. Nokeo Ratanavong (IDD)
Mr Don Clarke	Chief, Technical Cooperation Section, PPD
Mr Jurgen Gafke	Senior Programme Officer, PPD
Mr. Xuan Zengpei	Chief, IDD
Ms. Tiziana Bonapace	Chief, ICT & Development Section, IDD
Mr. Wang Keran	Chief, Space Applications Section, IDD
Dr. Ram S. Tiwatee	Economic affairs Officer, Space Applications Section, IDD
Mr. Yuichi Ono	Chief, DRR Section, IDD
Dr. Sanjay Kumar Srivastava	Regional Advisor on DRR, IDD
Dr. Aynul Hasan	Chief, Development Policy Section, MPDD
Ms. Nanda Krairiksh	Director, SDD
Mr. Dong-Woo Ha	Director, TD
Dr. Ravi Ratnayake	Director, TID
Ms. Haishan Fu	Director, SD
Mr. Masakazu Ichimura	Chief, Environment & Development Policy Section, EDD
Mr. Kohji Iwakami	Economic Affairs Officer, EDD
Mr. Iosefa Maiava	ESCAP EPO
Mr. LeRoy Hellenbeck	Director, UNAPCAEM
Dr. Hyeun Suk Rhee	Director, APCICT
Mr. Krishnamurthy Ramanathan	Director, APCTT
Mr Rajesh Sharma	Regional Programme Specialist, UNDP
Dr. Rajan Gengaje	Head, Preparedness and Response Unit 1 and Regional Disaster Response Advisor, UNOCHA
Mr. Jerry Valesquez	Senior Regional Coordinator, ISDR
Dr. Eun-Ju Kim	Regional Director, ITU
Mr. Craig Steffensen	Thailand Country Director, ADB
Mr. Taras A. Pronim	3 rd Secretary & Assistant PR, Russian Federation
Mr. Masatoshi Sato	Counselor and Deputy PR, Japan
Ms. Julie J.Chung	Counselor for Economic Affairs, USA
Mr. Nicolas Kofi Gwira	2 nd Secretary & Deputy PR, USA
Mr. Primanto Hendrasgoro	Minister/Deputy Chief of Mission, Deputy PR, Indonesia
Ms. Nagma M. Mallick	Deputy Chief of Mission and Deputy PR, India
Ms. Amali Sauduadua	1 st Secretary & Deputy PR, Fiji
Focus Group	Mr. Suraphong Chuachamsai, IDD Ms. Preyawan Chobpanich, IDD Mr. Preminda J.Fernando, DRR Mr. Timothy Loh, Space Applications Ms. Emma Lovell, ICT&D Mr. Jorge Maryinez-Navarrete, ICT&D Mr. Nokeo Ratanavong, DRR Ms. Mari Sawai, DRR Dr. Ram S. Tiwatee, Space Applications Mr. Young Gyu Woo, ICT&D

Appendix 4: From ICSTD to IDD and How IDD Works

The shift of emphasis is spelt out in the Official Records of the General Assembly, 61st Session, Supplement No.6 (A/61/6/Rev.1) and the Official Records of the General Assembly, 63rd Session, Supplement No.6 (A/63/6/Rev.1). The budget proposal for 2008-2009 of Section 18 “Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific” of Part V “Regional cooperation for development” of Programme 15 of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009 states the objective of the organization as:

To improve equitable access to and use of information, communication and space technology so as to ensure the benefits are available to all, leading to the region’s economic and social advancement and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. (p.41)

The corresponding budget proposal for 2010-2011 states the objective as:

To strengthen regional cooperation for the improved management of disasters and associated socio-economic risks and to promote application of information and communications technology for socio-economic development in the ESCAP region. (p.39)

The evolution of subprogramme 7 into subprogramme 5 involved the establishment of two new committees: the Committee on ICT, first convened 2008, and the Committee on DRR, first convened 2009. The distillation of the UN General Assembly-approved biennial Work Programme for IDD takes place through the programme of activities presented to and approved by these two committees which meet in Bangkok.

In attuning the activities of IDD to the needs of member States to coordinate and strengthen their disaster risk reduction capacities the roles of information and communications technologies (ICTs) and of space applications especially have been largely recalibrated to support the activities of the disaster risk reduction (DRR) section. This poses a challenge to the traditional role of the ICT and space sections as there remain many areas of applications that, while complementary to disaster risk reduction, are not themselves directly addressing disaster issues. They cover a wide spectrum such as infrastructure (broadband wired and wireless fixed-line, cable, satellite and cellular mobile network) development, closing the digital divide, providing e-government and online economic and social services, the regional and subregional harmonization of standards, policies and regulations, cross-border e-trading, etc.

The Work of IDD and Sources of Funding

Because the scope of IDD’s activities is wide ranging it is helpful to provide an overview. The modalities of ESCAP for all subprogrammes fall into 4 basic types reflecting the comparative advantages of ESCAP as having the authority to communicate directly with member States.⁴⁴

- Convening authority – facilitating substantive and political support for key initiatives
- Regional coordination – chairing the UN Regional Coordination Mechanism

⁴⁴ Other UN agencies are required to go through UN country offices.

- Knowledge sharing and networking – through analytical work, networking, capacity building
- Advocacy role – MDGs, HFAs, social inclusion, sustainable development, etc.

These roles are illustrated below. Although many other organizations and agencies have overlapping responsibilities and areas of interest, only ESCAP can raise these directly with governments across the region, either on a government-by-government basis, on an inter-government committee basis,⁴⁵ on a subregional basis,⁴⁶ and on an Asia and Pacific regional basis. In addition ESCAP is closely involved in inter-agency networking initiatives such as the Interagency Working Group on ICT. Table A4.1 enumerates these initiatives.

Table A4.1: Regional Cooperation Initiatives and the Tsunami Trust Fund

2005	ESCAP Tsunami Regional Trust Fund (Estd. the Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early Warning System – RIMES)
1994	Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (RESAP)
1973	WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclone
1968	WMO/ESCAP Typhoon Committee
1957	Mekong River Commission (for flood control)

The following diagrams provide a pictorial overview.⁴⁷ Diagram 1 illustrates the cascading role of ESCAP in disaster risk reduction (DRR) from its convening powers to its coordination and networking capacity, to its ability to mobilize resources. However, ESCAP’s (and IDD’s) own resources are limited mostly to providing professional and general staff support, support-in-kind through meeting rooms and conference facilities, and technical advice from experts seconded to ESCAP or on a NRL-basis.

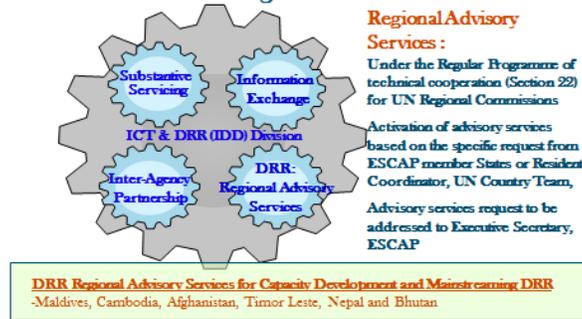
Diagram A4.1: ESCAP Regional Capacity Development for Disaster Resilience

⁴⁵ For example, the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee of the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (RESAP)

⁴⁶ Four Subregional Offices (SROs) have been established in East and North-East Asia (Incheon, Republic of Korea), North and Central Asia (Almaty, Kazakhstan), South and South-West Asia (New Delhi, India) and the ESCAP Pacific Office (EPO) in Suva, Fiji.

⁴⁷ The diagrams are taken from an ESCAP power-point presentation ‘Building Regional Capacity for Disaster Risk Reduction’ ESCAP (2011) *Section 22 RPTC* Finding power-point presentation

ESCAP: DRR Strategic Pillars



The role of the ICT and Space sections with regard to DRR is outlined in Table A4.4. Their contribution appears as inputs into projects and programmes involving other agencies and organizations.

Diagram A4.4: DRR Partnerships



While ‘economic and social issues’ are involved, the terminology is on too high level to be specific. Space (satellite) applications on the other hand seem to be pretty much self-defining, such as the use of high altitude imaging to aid damage and loss assessment is self-explanatory. How precisely ICTs, such as cellular communications and the use of the Internet, add value is not self-evident *at this level*. In a discussion of the Committee on DRR some concrete examples are given by guest speakers, but they are not related to any specific projects or programmes. So there seems to be little direct evidence for real value being added from the ICT side, unlike the Space side, and collaboration with other agencies is not apparent from these slides. This is of some concern because one area in which collaboration is supposed to have happened is in the production of the Asia Pacific Disaster Report; however interview evidence suggests ISDR felt very little collaboration was actually experience from IDD at the operational level. There is also conflicting evidence concerning collaboration around Space in training programmes in the Pacific.

Appendix 5: IDD Sources of Funding

- **Regular (R: Section 18)** budget directly from the UN mainly to finance IDD's administrative and support activities, such as serving various member State committee meetings, coordination with SROs, etc.
- **Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation (RPTC: Section 22)** budget directly from the UN to finance IDD's involvement in projects, such as technical assistance and advisory work or support for donor-funded projects
- **UN's Development Account (DA: Section 35)** directly from the UN, with each subprogramme receiving one limited supplementary funding per biennial to finance a development project
- **Extra-budgetary (XB)** funds come from a variety of sources, notably Inter-governmental committees, governments, other UN agencies and NGOs.

Table A5.1 provides an overview of IDD funding for the period 2008-2011. It shows that while the Regular budget (Section 18) provides most of the posts, the RPTC budget (Section 22) is important for activities, such as providing technical assistance and expert advice.⁴⁸ But with respect to activities, both are overshadowed by the extra-budgetary (XB) funding which financed over 60 per cent during 2010-2011, up from over 40 per cent during 2008-2009.

Table A5.1
Budget utilization of the IDD subprogramme during 2008-2011*
Thousands of US\$

Funding source	Type of cost	2008-2009	2010-2011**
Regular budget	Post	5,259.6	5,482.4
	Activities	188.4	130.2
	Sub-total	5,448	5,612.6
Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation	Post	47.6	330.1
	Activities	293.0	326.5
	Sub-total	340.6	656.6
Development Account	Activities	-	10
Extra-budgetary resources	Activities	372.4	754.8
Total		6,161	7,034

* This excludes resources for Regional Institutions under the subprogramme; ** Interim figures as of 5 January 2012

Regular Budget

⁴⁸ The activities funded by the Regular budget consist mainly of analytical work such as consultants for the Asia Pacific Disaster Report 2010, organizing workshops, expert group meetings, etc.

**Table A5.2
Regular Budget (Section 18)**

Type of cost	2008-2009			2010-2011		
	Allocation	Expenditures*	Utilization rates	Allocation	Expenditures*	Utilization rates
Posts	5,359,400	5,259,600	98%	5,687,500	5,482,400	96%
Activities	190,500	188,400	99%	147,900	130,200	88%
Total	5,549,900	5,448,000	99%	5,835,400	5,612,600	96%

* Interim figures as of 5 January 2012

RPTC Budget

**Table A5.3
Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation (Section 23)**

Type of cost	2008-2009			2010-2011		
	Allocation	Expenditures*	Utilization rates	Allocation	Expenditures*	Utilization rates
Posts	45,000	47,600	+100%	331,100	330,100	99%
Activities	337,300	293,000	87%	470,500	326,500	69%
Total	382,300	340,600	89%	751,800	656,600	87%

* Interim figures as of 5 January 2012

The RPTC budget (Section 22) is funding that is responsive to requests from member States for technical assistance. The expert technical support received by IDD from seconded staff (one in ICT and Development and two in Space Applications) are the main resources for these assistance projects. From Table A5.4 it can be seen these are all DRR-focused projects with different ICT and Space Applications components.

Table A5.4: RPTC (Section 22) Technical Assistance Projects (2008-2011)

	Project Title	Status	Expenditures (% Budget delivery)*
1	Improving awareness of ICT applications for disaster management (T031)	Completed	RA Post = \$47,600**
2	Technical advisory services in the Pacific (T032)		Activities = \$293,000
3	Enhancing national capacities for effective implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in Asia-Pacific (T046)		
4	Strengthening regional cooperation and capacity development towards disaster risk reduction (T105)	Completed	RA Post = \$330,100**
5	Assist the recovery process of the 2010 Pakistan floods through an enhanced flood resilient strategy (T111)		Activities = \$326,500
6	Strategies and policies for enhanced economic and social connectivity and resilience to disasters (T130)***	Ongoing	
7	Strengthening regional knowledge and capacity of ESCAP member States in policies and strategies in disaster risk reduction for inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development (T123)***	Ongoing	

Notes: * As of December 2011; ** Refer to Table X below for advisory missions provided by the Regional Adviser on Disaster Risk Reduction; *** Included in the capacity development projects of IDD (2011-2013)

Table A5.5: Regional Advisory Services (Oct 2009 – Dec 2011)

Country/Focal Points	Date of mission	Outcome
Maldives (2 requests) Resident Coordinator UN Maldives Min of State for Housing, Transport and Development responsible for DRR	18-26 April 2010 15-19 January 2012	Strategizing UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) on integrating DRR and climate change adaptation Institutional capacity assessment of Nodal agency – Maldives Nation Centre for Disaster Management
Cambodia (2 requests) Resident Coordinator, UN Senior Minister, First Vice President, National Committee of Disaster Management	28-31 March 2010 13-23 June 2010 29 September-2 October 2010 21-23 December 2010	Resident UN and lead – Productive Sector Team, Post Damage and Needs Assessment (PDNA) mission led by Royal Govt of Cambodia Strengthening institutional capacity development of Nodal agency – Cambodia’s National Committee on Disaster Management
Afghanistan General Director – Rank of Vice Minister, Afghanistan Disaster Management Authority	9-12 June 2010 12-14 December 2010	Development of Strategic National Action Plan (SNAP) for DRR
Timor Leste Resident Coordinator, UN		Strategic formulation on National Risk Assessment and Review of Implementation of HFA
Bhutan Home Minister	5-10 September 2010 12-14 December 2010	Review of implementing the HFA and mainstreaming DRR in 5 years development planning
Nepal Resident Coordinator, UN	1-4 September 2010 2-8 March 2011	Review of HFA implementation and institutionalization of monitoring and evaluation mechanism and its implementation
Mongolia Chairman ICT Authority	2-5 July 2011	Strategizing disaster preparedness by sharing emergency communication resources through regional cooperation
Armenia Minister of Emergency Situation	19-21 October 2011	Operationalizing Disaster Risk Reduction, Developing national disaster risk reduction strategy Establishing sub-national mechanisms for implementing HFA in Armenia

In addition to the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) carried out by IDD in Cambodia mentioned in the table, IDD has been involved in PDNAs after the tsunami in Samoa in 2009⁴⁹ and the floods in Thailand in 2011, upon request of Governments/UNRC. Damage and Loss Assessment (DaLA) methodology is used in these activities.⁵⁰ The relevance of all these RPTC projects to DRR is pretty much assured. It is worth noting that the two that make reference to socio-economic development are both ongoing and are part of the Capacity Development Project approved for 2011-2013 (see Appendix 6) which is perhaps a good sign

⁴⁹ See para 254, http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/ESCAP/66/27

⁵⁰ <http://www.gfdr.org/gfdr/node/69>

that this component may be reinvigorated. It is after all the traditional strength of ESCAP where the initials stand for ‘economic’ and ‘social’ commission.

Table A5.6: UN Development Account (Section 35)

	Project Title	Date	Target Countries	Donors and Partnering organizations	Donor contributions received/ Expenditures (as of December 2011)
1.	Improving disaster risk preparedness in the ESCAP region (H033) - ongoing	9/2010-8/2012	30 selected disaster prone member countries in Asia and the Pacific	Donor: UNDA (7 th Tranche) Partners: ISDR, OCHA, ASEAN, ECO, SAARC, PIFS	\$621,900 Exp: \$10,000

Appendix 6: Technical Cooperation Project Reports (Consultant's Remarks)

Each completed project which has been supported by Extrabudgetary funding during the period 2008-2011 should have a project 'Terminal Report' as well as a 'Progress Report' plus the initial 'Project Document' approved by ESCAP. The full list of XB projects, including those ongoing, is provided in Extrabudgetary Projects (2008-2011) Appendix 7. A summary of the Progress and Terminal Reports is provided in Table 8 and the (Ref No.) listed in column 1 relates to the corresponding project number in that Appendix.

Table A6.1: Progress and Terminal Reports on IDD projects 2008-2011

Project	Dates/Delivery Rate	Evaluation	Comments
Assistance to member countries in the implementation of ICT policies and programmes for development (Ref. 1)	07/2004-07/2008 Donor: Japan Budget: \$495,371 Exp.: \$503,517 Delivery Rate: 102% ESCAP input: not stated	Over 100 participants to Tashkent workshop; language difficulties delayed preparations; problems with lack of available data; use of feedback forms (no results cited) but more significantly there was follow-up by several participating countries for technical assistance and regional coop.; coop with UNECE, EBRD, ABD and UNDP emphasized.	Relevance and effectiveness are suggested from the requests for further technical assistance to promote broadband access and rural connectivity from Kazakhstan and Sri Lanka. Bhutan indicated it was implementing the recommendations. Efficiency was hamstrung by external circumstances.
Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (Ref.2)	9/2005- 6/2008 Donor: China \$50,000 Exp: \$52,011 Delivery Rate: >100% ESCAP input: \$50,800 in-kind = 4 months PS staff @ \$12,700 p/m	The ACDR held Beijing 2005; 2006 workshop in HK agreed to create an RCM on space info for DRR; ACDR has led to series of high level annual ministerial ACDR meetings	The ACDR clearly has had multiplier effects, including the Regional Cooperative Mechanism on Disaster Monitoring and Early Warning, Particularly Drought (see 6 below)
High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Monitoring and Early Warning System Using Space-Information Technologies in Asia and the Pacific (Ref 4)	7/2007- 6/2008 Donor: China \$30,000 + RMB 150,000 Exp: \$30,000 Delivery Rate: 100% ESCAP input: \$19,050 in-kind = 1.5 months PS @ \$2,700 + \$3,100 1 month GS + facilities	RCM proposed at EGM chaired by CRESDA and Philippines in support of a space-assisted High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) EWS	The Summary of Results says "Participants of the Regional Expert Meeting recognized the importance of cooperative mechanisms for the development of space-IT enabled HPAI monitoring and EWS"
Towards improved capacity in disaster management using Satellite E-based and Spatial Information System in Asia and the Pacific (Ref. 5)	2/2008- 3/2008 Donor: Japan Budget: \$80,000 Exp.: \$80,000 Delivery Rate: 100% ESCAP input: \$28,500 in-kind = 2 months PS staff @ \$12,700 p/m + 1 month GS @ \$3,100 p/m	Participants from 17 member States to 3day Bangkok workshop; Sentinel Asia had been accepted by APRSAF for Pacific disaster management activities; ADRC and UN-SPIDER presented	The Terminal Report states (i) participants agreed to create national focal points, and (ii) that evaluation of the number of participants in Sentinel Asia meetings and of users will take place end 2009; no further information is provided
Strengthening ICT policies and applications to achieve	7/2009- 6/2011 Donor: ROK	A report 'Policy Recommendations and	Progress Report: the findings of EGM were

<p>MDGs WSIS goals in Asia and the Pacific (Ref. 6)</p>	<p>Budget: \$150,000 Delivery Rate: 73%</p> <p>ESCAP input:⁵¹ \$24,000 = \$2,000 x 24 months PS + \$10,000 in-kind (meeting facilities, equipment, etc.)</p>	<p>Regional Cooperation⁵² followed and fed into EGMs in Bangkok and Seoul + 2 studies: on mobile apps and on M-health; EMG recommendations circulated at ICT C'ttee 24-26 November 2010.</p>	<p>shared with the 2nd CICT which is confirmed in the minutes. It adds: 'the EMG benefitted from <i>high number (emphasis added)</i> of female participants as well as their active contributions to the discussion.' In fact there were 7 from 38 participants. Gender issues are noticeably absent from the Report's content.</p>
<p>Policy and technical options on the use of space applications to improve disaster risk management in the typhoon-prone area and the Pacific region (Ref. 8)</p>	<p>8/2010-4/2011 Donor: Japan Budget: \$100,000 Delivery Rate: 92%</p> <p>ESCAP input: not stated</p>	<p>ESCAP organized workshops in Bangkok (13 countries and 9 intl. agencies) and Islamabad (5 countries and 4 intl. agencies) in support of RCM for Typhoon Committee, with apps from Sentinel Asia and WINDS; by end of project "more than half participating countries acknowledge the policy & technical options materials... are useful"; presented WINDS to 18 PITA members at PTC and to PITA, Palau and PNG in Beijing where "acknowledged the benefit of utilizing WINDS"</p>	<p>Besides workshops, ESCAP produced a study 'Space-based applications in the Pacific region to enhance ICT connectivity'⁵³ as a tangible output, but it is mostly descriptive of the technology without socio-economic analysis.</p>
<p>Strengthening regional cooperation for DRR in Asia and the Pacific (ref.7)</p>	<p>12/2009 11/2011 Donor: China Budget: \$200,000 Delivery Rate: 62%</p> <p>ESCAP input: not stated</p>	<p>The launch of the Regional Cooperative Mechanism on Disaster Monitoring and Early Warning, Particularly Drought, and terms accepted by the Intergovernmental Committee on RESAP</p>	<p>Lessons learned "will report such information at a later stage of the project" implying the ongoing RCM. The pace of progress may be slower than had been hoped judging from some of the respondents' feedback to the survey.</p>

⁵¹ The costs stated in the Project Doc. do not seem to accord well with the costs in Annex III which, for example, provides \$20,000 for staff travel over 2 years.

⁵² See <http://www.unescap.org/idd/events/cict-2010> and at http://www.unescap.org/idd/events/2010_EGM-ICT/index.asp

⁵³ See http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/asp/CMS/Events/2011/ict-apps/s2_MrButcher.pdf

Appendix 7: Work Programmes

The Work Programme⁵⁴ for the biennium 2008-2009 as approved by the UN General Assembly sets out the 'Expected accomplishments' for what was then subprogramme 7 (now subprogramme 5) shown in Table A7.1.

Table A7.1: Work Programme 2008-2009: Expected Accomplishments

<p>(a) Strengthened national capacity to design, develop and implement national information, communication and space technology policies and programmes, including development initiatives that facilitate equitable access to information, communication and space technology, with special emphasis on the achievement of the MDGs and the Plan of Action of the WSIS</p> <p>(b) Strengthened national capacity, partnerships and regional cooperative mechanisms for the use of space technology for achieving internationally agreed development goals and disaster reduction</p> <p>(c) Improved national and international capacity through training programmes in the use of ICT for the purposes of socio-economic development</p> <p>(d) Strengthened national capacity to nurture and promote national innovation systems to create an enabling environment for technology transfer in order for countries of the region to meet development challenges in the global economy</p>

Against each 'Expected accomplishment' are a set of 'Indicators of achievement' and 'Performance measures' as shown in Table A7.2 (See also Appendix 5: Subprogramme Expected Accomplishments)

**Table A7.2: Work Programme 2008-2009:
Indicator of Achievement and Performance Measures**

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement	Performance measures	Data verification and analysis ⁵⁵
(a)	(i) Increased number of measures taken to improve regulatory frameworks.	2004-2005: 5 measures Estimate 2006-2007: 6 measures Target 2010-2011: 6 measures	Cumulative increase
	(ii) Increase number of countries using tools developed by ESCAP initiatives to promote the	2004-2005: not applicable Estimate 2006-2007: 6 countries	Cumulative increase

⁵⁴ UN General Assembly 3 April 2007 'Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009: Part V, Regional cooperation for development; Section 18 Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (Programme 15 of the strategic framework for the period 2008-2009; Subprogramme 7: Information and communications and space technology) – Official Records of the General Assembly, 61st Session, Supplement No.6 (A/61/6/Rev.1)

⁵⁵ Taken from the *Programme Narrative at Subprogramme Level*, 185FormA.doc for the biennium 2010-2011.

	development and use of information, communication and space technology	Target 2008-2009: 8 countries	
(b)	Increased number of stakeholders supporting regional cooperation mechanisms	2004-2005: 5 stakeholders Estimate 2006-2007: 5 stakeholders Target 2008-2009: 7 stakeholders	Cumulative increase
(c) Note: IC&STD was previously the back-stopping division for APCICT (not part of this report)	Percentage of policymakers and officials benefiting from activities of APCICT who indicate their level of competency was increased in the use of ICT for socio-economic development	2004-2005: Not applicable Estimate 2006-2007: 75% Target 2008-2009: 85%	Standardized survey
(d) Note: IC&STD was previously the back-stopping division for APCTT (not part of this report)	Increased number of countries participating in technology transfer mechanisms supported by the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, including regional networks	2004-2005: 10 countries Estimate 2006-2007: 12 countries Target 2008-2009: 15 countries	Cumulative increase
Assumptions : The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives and accomplishments on the assumptions that members and associate members will continue to integrate information, communication and space technology into their socio-economic development programmes and the achievement of the MDGs			

The Work Programme for 2010-2011⁵⁶ reflects a *de facto* shift of focus in the 'Expected accomplishments' as shown in Table A7.3 as recorded in the minutes of the UN General Assembly.⁵⁷

Table A7.3: Work Programme 2010-2011: Expected Accomplishments

(a) Increased sharing of knowledge among ESCAP member States on policy options, strategies and best practices for information and communication technology (ICT) connectivity and for integrating multi-hazard disaster risk reduction into national development
(b) Strengthened regional cooperative mechanisms in support of ICT connectivity and disaster risk reduction
(c) Improved capabilities of ESCAP member States in the field of multi-hazard assessment, preparedness, early warning and response to disaster risks
(d) Improved institutional capacity of ESCAP member States to apply ICT for socio-economic development

The 'Indicators of achievement' and 'Performance measures' for each of the above 'Expected accomplishments' as set out on the 2010-2011 Work Programme are elaborated further in *Programme Narrative at Subprogramme Level*, 185FormA.doc. (See Appendix 5)

⁵⁶ UN General Assembly 31 March 2009 'Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011: Part V, Regional cooperation for development; Section 18 Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (Programme 15 of the strategic framework for the period 2010-2011; Subprogramme 5: Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction) – Official Records of the General Assembly, 63rd Session, Supplement No.6 (A/63/6/Rev.1)

⁵⁷ Official Records of the General Assembly, 61st Session, Supplement No.6 (A/61/6/Rev.1) and the Official Records of the General Assembly, 63rd Session, Supplement No.6 (A/63/6/Rev.1)

Column 4 (“Data verification and analysis”) is taken from the *Programme Narrative at Subprogramme Level*, 185FormA.doc. The extensive footnotes to table A7.4 have been supplied by IDD to add detail to the work achievements.

**Table A7.4: Work Programme 2010-2011:
Indicator of Achievement and Performance Measures**

EA s	Indicators of achievement	Performance measures	Data verification and analysis
(a)	(i) Increased % of those participating in ESCAP activities on ICT connectivity and DRR who indicate that knowledge sharing within the region has increased. (ii) Increase number of policy practices in multi-hazard DRR collected, documented, analyzed and disseminated by ESCAP to member States	2006-2007: Not applicable Estimate 2008-2009: 60% Target 2010-2011: 70% ⁵⁸ 2006-2007: 8 policy practices Estimate 2008-2009: 10 policy practices Target 2010-2011: 14 policy practices ⁵⁹	Standardized survey Cumulative increase
(b)	(i) Increased number of ESCAP member States taking measures to enhance regional cooperation mechanisms promoted by ESCAP in support of ICT connectivity (ii) Increased number of ESCAP member States actively participating in regional cooperation mechanisms for disaster risk reduction fostered by ESCAP	2006-2007: 5 member States Estimate 2008-2009: 7 ESCAP member States Target 2010-2011: 7 member States ⁶⁰ 2006-2007: 10 members States Estimate 2008-2009: 15 member States Target 2010-2011: 20 member States ⁶¹	Standardized survey 2006-2007/2008-2009 = RCMs use of space technology. 2010-2011 = ICT connectivity “Active” participation to be measured by intellectual or monetary contribution

⁵⁸ According to surveys collected post meetings and feedback from the Asia Pacific Disaster Report, the percentage of those participating in ESCAP activities who indicated that knowledge sharing on ICT connectivity and disaster risk reduction has increased to 70 percent.

⁵⁹ Over fourteen policy practices at the national and regional levels were collected, analyzed and disseminated. Through the Asia Pacific Disaster Report 2010, these include 6 policy practices on disaster preparedness and management strategy in all levels of the development planning process in the Philippines; on DRR and poverty reduction strategies, such as the food security project in Samoa; on community-based disaster preparedness programme in Orissa; on vulnerability mapping in Cambodia; participatory vulnerability and capacity assessments in Navua, Fiji, with particular attention to the participation of women and men; on a mobile knowledge resource centre in Myanmar to provide information to communities affected by Cyclone Nargis. In addition, 425 policies relating to DRR have also been disseminated through the online portal of the Asia Pacific Gateway for Disaster Risk Reduction and Development at <http://www.drrgateway.net/content/policy>.

Furthermore, ninety-two policy-makers attended the Second Session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology. The Committee noted the need for the sharing of knowledge, expertise and best practices, and cooperation among ESCAP member States (E/ESCAP/CICT(2)/L.2, paragraph 7), and exchanged information and knowledge on various practices and policies adopted at the national level as contained in E/ESCAP/CICT(2)/L.2.

⁶⁰ There were 7 member countries of Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan) continued their support to the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development, which was jointly promoted by ESCAP and ECE.

⁶¹ There were 20 ESCAP members and associate members participating in the activities related to the Regional Cooperative Mechanism on Disaster Monitoring and Early Warning, Particularly Drought: 16 members and associate members (Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Macao (China), Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam), with relevant supports and commitments to “the Mechanism”; and 4 member States (Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu and Fiji) actively participating in the national training workshops conducted through the regional space applications programme for sustainable development (RESAP), which provided feedbacks to further RESAP including “the Mechanism”. Four organizations also expressed their support to the mechanism with relevant commitments. Through the Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness (hereafter “Trust Fund”), two ESCAP members (Cambodia and Timor Leste) would benefit to strengthen their early warning systems, while another six countries (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand) would to reduce disaster risks.

			of member State ⁶²
(c)	Increased % of ESCAP member States participating in ESCAP activities that indicate that they are better able to assess, prepare for and respond to disaster risks	2006-2007: Not applicable Estimate 2008-2009: 50% Target 2010-2011: 60% ⁶³	Standardized survey
(d)	Increased % of participants benefitting from the work of the APCICT and from other ESCAP initiatives, including an increased in the number who indicate that they are better able to apply ICT for socio-economic development	2006-2007: 75% Estimate 2008-2009: 85% Target 2010-2011: 88% ⁶⁴	Note: APCICT has adopted its own M&E process 2011
Assumptions (edited to save space): (a) national economic, social and political conditions remain conducive; (b) member States and international organizations will pursue international cooperation with regard to ICTs and DRR; (c) adequate extra-budgetary resources will be mobilized to ensure the necessary outreach and depth of technical cooperation			

⁶² The information on "active" participation in the mechanism has been collected from the reports of ESCAP meetings where countries announced: (i) commitment to provide in-kind contribution (intellectual, products and services) to the Regional Cooperative Mechanism on Disaster Monitoring and Early Warning, while other countries would participate in and benefit from the mechanism; (ii) Monetary contribution is done for the Tsunami Trust Fund

⁶³ Eleven member States which represents 68 per cent against the target of 60 per cent⁶³ from Central Asia and neighbouring countries (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, India, Mongolia, Pakistan, Russian Federation) participating in the regional workshops of the project on flood risk reduction and extreme weather events in Central Asia held at Astana and Baku, agreed setting up a subregional disaster knowledge network for sharing of information and knowledge to improve preparedness, disaster risk reduction and disaster management in Central Asia. In addition, 23 representatives from the national planning/finance ministry and national disaster management authorities from 8 PICs (Vanuatu, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Palau) which were selected based on their high exposure to natural hazards, were provided a training workshop on damage and loss assessment at Port Vila, Vanuatu. Representatives from line agencies of Thailand participating in the telecommunications sector assessment for the Thailand Floods Rapid Post Disaster Needs Assessment were introduced on the damage and loss assessment.

Good practices and lessons learned in addressing large-scale disasters were shared to experts from 4 member States (Bangladesh, China, Japan, Pakistan and Thailand) attending the workshop on water-related disasters held in Islamabad; and to experts from 12 member States (Bangladesh, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, New Caledonia, Palau, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu and the USA) attending the two expert group meetings on post- Great East Japan earthquake and tsunami held in Tokyo and Iwate.

Experts from 16 member States (Afghanistan; Bangladesh; Cambodia; China; India; Indonesia; Japan; Lao PDR; Malaysia; Mongolia; Nepal; Pakistan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Thailand) attended the Expert Group Meeting on Regional Knowledge and Cooperation for Comprehensive Multi-Hazard Risk Management in Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok.

Representatives from 27 member and associate members of ESCAP (Afghanistan; Australia; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; China; India; Indonesia; Iran; Japan; Lao PDR; Malaysia; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nepal; Pakistan; Palau; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Samoa; Solomon Islands; Sri Lanka; Thailand; United States of America; and Viet Nam) attended the Second Session of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction, 29 June-1 July 2010, Bangkok, Thailand. The Committee strongly supported the continued implementation by the secretariat of recent ESCAP initiatives in the area of disaster risk reduction, including further development of the Asia-Pacific Gateway for Disaster Risk Reduction and Development and the publication of the Asia-Pacific Disaster Report (E/ESCAP/CDRR(2)/6, paragraph 2).

⁶⁴ Out of the seven countries (Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Myanmar, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam) in which the Academy programme was launched through national workshops during the reporting period, 91.1% of the participants and officials who participated in the training and were surveyed indicated that they found the training content relevant and useful.

Appendix 8: Subprogramme Expected Accomplishments⁶⁵

Expected accomplishments	Outputs
(a)	<p>(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (regular budget)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Parliamentary docs (2010, 2011) (ii) C'ttee on ICT meetings and Parliamentary docs (2010) (iii) C'ttee on DRR meetings and Parliamentary docs (2011) (iv) Ad hoc expert groups (2010) <p>(b) Other substantial activities (Regular budget)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Technical material: analytical studies on WSIS Plan of Action (2010, 2011) (ii) Substantial serving of inter-agency ICT meetings (2010, 2011) <p>(c) Technical cooperation (regular/extrabudgetary)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Training courses, seminars, workshops (2010, 2011)
(b)	<p>(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (regular budget)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Ad hoc expert groups (2010) <p>(b) Other substantial activities (Regular budget)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Technical material: best practices in space and relevant ICTs for DRR that contribute to poverty reduction (2011) (ii) Substantial serving of Typhoon C'ttee, Panel on Tropical Cyclones, RESAP, RCM (2010, 2011) (iii) Special events: International Day for Disaster Reduction (2010, 2011) (XB) <p>(c) Technical cooperation (regular/extrabudgetary)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Training courses, seminars, workshops, including Pacific connectivity (2010, 2011) (ii) Field Projects: space apps for development and disaster management (2010-2011)
(c)	<p>(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (regular budget)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Ad hoc expert groups on comprehensive multi-hazard management and early warning (2011) <p>(b) Other substantial activities (Regular budget)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Non-recurrent publications: organizational needs assessment of networks of coop management for DRR (2010) (ii) Technical materials: paper on multi-hazard preparedness and early warning for improved disaster management and reduced socio-economic risks, taking into account gender perspectives (2010); paper on disaster and emergency communications (2011) <p>(c) Technical cooperation (regular/extrabudgetary)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Training courses, seminars, regional workshop on a network or networks for disaster info sharing (2011) (ii) Field Projects: space apps for development and disaster management (2010-2011)
(d) Note: APCICT-focused; IDD was previously the back-stopping division for APCICT (not part of this report)	<p>(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (regular budget)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) ESCAP: Parliamentary docs - reports on APCICT (2010, 2011) (ii) Assistance to reps, rapporteurs: APCICT Governing Council (2010, 2011) <p>(b) Other substantial activities (Regular budget)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Booklets, factsheets, wall charts, APCICT training brochures, etc. (2010-2011) (ii) Technical materials: directory of national training institutes and their programmes for ICT development; APCICT website updating, etc. (2010-2011) <p>(c) Technical cooperation (regular/extrabudgetary)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Training courses: workshop on national and regional comparative analysis of ICT and human development (2011) (ii) Field Projects: capacity development for senior government officials through APCICT Academy (2010-2011)

⁶⁵ The Programme Narrative at Subprogramme Level, 185FormA.doc adds more detail to the outputs of IDD.

Appendix 9: Capacity Development Projects (2011-2013)

Project	Targets	Partners	Funding
<p>1. Strategies and policies for enhanced regional economic and social connectivity and resilience</p> <p>Project No. 2240-JCE11006</p>	<p>ESCAP developing economies – ministries, policy analysts, telecom regulators</p> <p>Project Results:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To enhance cooperation on ICT connectivity and DRM through space technology usage and national capacity building in pilot countries through workshops and meetings with ICT government officials To implement paperless trade and transport facilitation through ICT infrastructure, development and applications, including a regional mapping to support the ASEAN broadband corridor project To strengthen institutional capacity of developing countries to formulate policies that enhance social connectivity and close the digital divide, including country studies, consultative meetings with policy makers 	<p>Funding:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> UN DA (8th Tranche pending) JAXA KCC RPTC <p>Partners:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> SPC (Secretariat of the Pacific Community) SOPAC (SPC Applied Geoscience and Technology Division) ASEAN ITU APT UNESCO UNCTAD ISDR UNDP PITA WMO 	<p>DONORS/FUNDS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> US\$380,000 to be secured from XB for Project Result 1. US\$120,000 secured from RPTC for Project Result 1 (see RPTC 6) US\$1,000,000 to be secured from XB for Project Result 2. US\$200,000 to be secured from UNDA for Project Result 2. US\$700,000 to be secured from XB for Project Result 3. US\$200,000 secured from UNDA for Project Result 3. TOTAL = US\$2,600,00 (US\$120,000 secured; US\$2,480,000 to be secured) <p>ESCAP INPUTS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Personnel, incl. travel = US\$355,693 Subcontracts/study grants = US\$870,000 Cost of workshops = US\$890,100 Miscellaneous, incl. PCS (13%) = US\$364,207 <p>Total = US\$2,480,000 (RPTC = \$120,000 – no budget details provided)</p>
<p>2. Strengthen regional cooperation mechanisms in ICTs and disaster risk reduction for development</p> <p>Project No. 2250-JCE11007</p>	<p>ESCAP members and associate members, particularly countries with special needs and disaster-prone countries</p> <p>Project Results:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen regional cooperation and improved capacity in ICTs for disaster risk reduction and development in Asia-Pacific Strengthen regional cooperation and improved capacity in flood risk reduction taking into account extreme weather events in Central Asia Enhanced capacity and empowerment of the disadvantaged communities by access to new information and knowledge Efficient and effective management of the ESCAP Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness to strengthen regional cooperation mechanisms 	<p>Funding/Donors:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> UN Development Account (8th Tranche pending) ESCAP Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness (“Trust Fund”) Republic of Korea Sweden Thailand Turkey China “Others” <p>Partners:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> EDD APCICT SROs ECE ESCWA FAO ISDR ITU UNEP UNESCO UNDP OCHA WMO 	<p>DONORS/FUNDS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> US\$65,000 – from China (see XB 2) for Activity 1. US\$780,000 to be secured XB for Project Result 1. US\$98,000 secured from Russia (see XB 10) for Project Result 2. US\$235,500 to be secured from UNDA for Project Result 3 (UNDA concept paper 8th Tranche submitted by ESCWA “Knowledge compendium for disadvantaged communities (KC4DC): Democratising knowledge to empower the disadvantaged”) US\$4,300,000 secured from Republic of Korea, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, China and “others” for Project Result 4 US\$3,210,000 to be secured from the Trust Fund for Project Result 4 <p>Total = US\$8,868,500 (US\$4,463,000 secured + US\$4,225,500 to be secured)</p> <p>ESCAP INPUTS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Secured = No US\$ provided (No details provided) to be secured = US\$3,990,000 <p>1. Personnel, incl. travel = US\$193,690</p> <p>2. Subcontracts/study grants = US\$3,009,000</p> <p>3. Cost of workshops = US\$475,573</p>

			4. Miscellaneous, incl. PCS (13%) = US\$311,737
<p>3. Strengthen regional knowledge and capacity of ESCAP member States in policies and strategies in DRR for inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development</p> <p>Project No. 2350-JCE11019</p>	<p>ESCAP members and associate members, in particular LDCs</p> <p>Project Results:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen regional cooperation and national capacities towards DRR and management 2. Improve disaster risk preparedness in ESCAP region 3. Strengthen ICT capacities for DRR and development addressing information knowledge and policy gaps in Asia 	<p>Donors/Funds:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UNDA 2. RPTC reserve funds 3. XB <p>Partners:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MPDD (Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division) 2. Statistics Division 3. EDD 4. TTD 5. APCICT 6. SROs 7. ISDR 8. OCHA 9. UNDP 10. ASEAN 11. SAARC 12. PIFS 13. ECO 14. ADPC 15. ADRC 16. Microsoft 	<p>DONORS/FUNDS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. US\$1,817,000 to be secured XB for Project Result 1 (APDR = US\$130,000; Gateway = US\$1,678,000) 2. US\$883,200 secured from RPTC for Project Result 1 (Regional Advisory services = US\$510,000 + RA travel = US\$90,000 + US\$80,000 from RPTC reserve funds approved March 2011 in response to EQ and tsunami in Japan) 3. US\$160,000 secured from RPTC reserve fund (see RPTC 7 = US\$163,200) 4. US\$621,900 secured from UNDA for Project Result 2. 5. US\$600,600 secured from UNDA for Project Result 3. <p>Total = US\$4,082,700 (US\$2,105,700 secured; US\$1,977,000 to be secured)</p> <p>ESCAP INPUTS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secured = US\$1,403,200 from RPTC (including reserve funds) 1. General temporary assistance = US\$510,000 2. Consultants = 15,000 3. Staff travel = US\$180,000 4. Seminar = US\$338,200 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. To be secured = US\$1,807,000 from XB 1. Personnel, incl. travel = US\$930,000 2. Cost of workshops = US\$500,000 3. Equipment US\$55,000 4. Miscellaneous, incl. PCS (13%) = US\$331,800
<p>4. Strengthen ICT capacities for improved Pacific connectivity</p> <p>Project No. Not Assigned</p>	<p>Pacific Island Developing Economies</p> <p>Project Result: Policies and technical options in the use of space applications to improve disaster risk management in Typhoon prone areas, with a focus on the Pacific developing economies</p>	<p>Donors/Funds:</p> <p>Korea Communications Commission</p>	<p>DONORS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. US\$180,000 <p>ESCAP INPUT:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Personnel = US\$55,693 2. Workshops = 98,100 3. Miscellaneous, incl. PSC (13%) = US\$26,207

Appendix 10: Extrabudgetary Projects (2008-2011)

Project Title	Date	Target Countries	Donors and Partnering organizations	Donor contributions / Expenditures (as of 12/11) (%delivery)
Assistance to member countries in the implementation of ICT policies and programmes for development (1772)	07/2004-07/2008	LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS	Donor: Japan	\$495,371 Exp: \$503,517 (+100%)
Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (1856)	9/2005-6/2008	Asia-Pacific countries	Donor: China Partners: ISDR, ADPC	\$50,000 Exp: \$52,011 (+100%)
Empowering the Rural Area through Community e-Centres (1928)	1/2007-12/2009	Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal	Donor: ADB	\$265,000
High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Monitoring and Early Warning System Using Space-Information Technologies in Asia and the Pacific (2015)	7/2007-6/2008	Asia-Pacific countries	Donor: China Partners: China National Space Agency, French National Space Centre, Canadian Space Agency, OOSA, FAO, WHO, UNDP, UNOCHA, ITU, WB, ADB	\$30,000 and RMB 150,000
Towards improved capacity in disaster management using Satellite-based and Spatial Information System in Asia and the Pacific	2/2008-3/2008	Asia and the Pacific	Donor: Japan Aerospace Exploratory Agency (JAXA), Japan	\$80,000
Strengthening ICT policies and applications to achieve MDGs in Asia and the Pacific (2073)	7/2009-6/2011	Asia and the Pacific	Donor: Republic of Korea	\$150,000
Strengthening regional cooperation for DRR in Asia and the Pacific (2084)	12/2009-11/2011	Asia and the Pacific	Donor: China	\$200,000
Policy and technical options on the use of space applications to improve disaster risk management in the typhoon-prone area and the Pacific region (2128)	8/2010-4/2011	Pacific island developing economies	Donor: Japan Aerospace Exploratory Agency (JAXA), Japan	\$100,000
Secretariat support to the ESCAP multi-donor fund for tsunami, disaster and climate preparedness in Indian Ocean and South-east Asian countries	1/2010-12/2012	Countries of the Indian Ocean and South-east Asia	Donor: Multi-donors Tsunami Trust Fund	\$585,100
Strengthening capacity to forecast extreme weather events in Asia (2108)	1/2010-5/2012	Central Asia, and East and North East Asia	Donor: Russian Federation	\$156,1370
Strengthening ICT capacities for improved Pacific connectivity	3/2011-12/2012	Pacific Islands	Donor: Korean Communications Commission	\$180,000

Appendix 11: Online Survey Responses

A: Responses of ACPR and ICT/DRR Committee Members

1. Please rate the relevance of the following areas and modalities of work of the subprogramme to the development needs of your country.

Areas of Work	Highly relevant	Relevant	Irrelevant	Highly irrelevant	Don't know
ICT	8 (57%)	3 (21%)	1 (7%)		2 (14%)
Disaster risk reduction	8 (57%)	5 (36%)	1 (7%)		
Space technology applications	6 (43%)	5 (36%)	1 (7%)		2 (14%)
Modalities					
Committee meetings	8 (57%)	5 (36%)			1 (7%)
Analytical work (e.g. Asia-Pacific Disaster report)	7 (50%)	5 (36%)	2 (14%)		
Advisory services	5 (36%)	5 (36%)	2 (14%)		2 (14%)
Regional cooperation mechanisms	6 (43%)	7 (50%)			1 (7%)
Capacity development/technical cooperation	7 (50%)	5 (36%)	2 (14%)		

Areas of Work	Weighted averages
ICT	3.6
DRR	3.5
Space Technology	3.4
Modalities	
ICT and DRR Committees	3.6
Analytical	3.4
Advisory	3.3
RCM	3.5
Capacity development/technical assistance	3.4

1.1 ICT, DRR and Space Technology Sections: The weighted average scores are ICT 3.6, DRR 3.5 and Space Technology 3.4. Given the heavy emphasis upon disaster preparedness and mitigation over recent years in response to actual disasters, and the fact that the direction of the IDD has closely followed the Work Programme through the establishment of the ICT and DRR Committees, the overall response is not surprising and does support the argument that the work of IDD has been seen to be relevant to the requirements of at least some member States. We shall see from comments below this tends to true of the member States in most need in these areas of assistance, especially the LDS and LLDS. The response of Pacific Island SIDS is more ambiguous, while some of the highly developed member States find the work of IDD not that important to them.

1.2 ICT and DRR Committees: The weighted average score 3.6. The responses accord fairly well with the feedback from the Committee evaluations themselves, although the latter also contain some observations for improvements in either the way information is disseminated for the meetings or their balance of content and focus. There remains a worrying concern

that many delegates to these meetings have difficulties in following the agenda and the discussion and that therefore a review would be helpful. These concerns are not reflected in the survey results however.

1.3 Analytical work: The weighted average score 3.4. The ‘irrelevant’ responses could simply refer to the fact that the member States concerned were in no need of such services.

1.4 Advisory services: The weighted average score 3.3. The ‘irrelevant’ responses could simply refer to the fact that the member States concerned were in no need of such services.

1.5 Regional cooperation mechanisms: The weighted average score 3.5, a clear indication that RCM is considered highly relevant, especially true in the area of DRR and early warning systems. Given some misgivings on the effectiveness of the RCMs in some of the comments and in interviews, the interpretation of this response is therefore best described as an acknowledgement that RCMs are very much needed.

1.6 Capacity development/technical assistance: The weighted average score 3.4. The ‘irrelevant’ responses could simply refer to the fact that the member States concerned were in no need of such services.

2. The activities of the subprogramme have helped your country to move closer to achieving internationally agreed development goals such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society, Hyogo Framework for Action.

	Frequency
Strongly agree	4 (29%)
Agree	7 (50%)
Disagree	2 (14%)
Strongly disagree	
Don't know	1 (7%)

2.1 The weighted average score 3.2, including two ‘disagree’. See ‘comments’ below.

2.2 **Comments by respondents:** Box 1 cites selected comments from respondents. There were eight respondents. The identities of respondents are not revealed in this report, but for the sake of analysis it can be said that countries that benefit most directly from the subprogramme, notably in disaster preparedness and mitigation, offer the most positive comments, although those from the Pacific are qualified. Higher income countries which have a wider range of dealings with other international and regional organizations provide more circumspect comments. Taken in isolation, this cannot be taken to imply these countries are critical of the performance of the subprogramme, but it does seem to imply a lack of relevance to their immediate interests.

Box 1: Selected Comments of Respondents

Note: the identity of respondents is not revealed

1. It is undeniably true that the activities of the subprogramme have greatly contributed to [the country] in achieving internationally agreed developments goals, particularly Hyogo Framework for Action
2. ESCAP is only one of many forums the [country] has available ... This subprogram is not extremely useful for the [country] towards the development goals stated above.

3. The [country] traditionally collaborates with ITU (for information society issues) and UNISDR (for DDR issues), rather than subsidiary organizations. So far ESCAP initiatives in both fields haven't managed to attract wide representation and participation from my Capital.
4. There are some good initiatives/ideas but rarely translated into action on the ground in Pacific. We have meetings etc., but the impact of these meetings are sometimes hard to relate to tangible benefits.
5. Information and Communication and Disaster Risk Reduction is now fundamental issue in [the country] for sustainable development and therefore incorporating ICT, disaster and climate risk in [the country's] national strategies, plan, programme has been initiated. The subprogramme is providing necessary assistance to develop both mobile applications as well as broadband fibre optic infrastructure. One of the important activities of the subprogramme is the capacity development and training in ICT development, and ICT for disaster risk reduction. [The APCICT is mentioned also in this response.]
6. It is undeniably true that the activities of the subprogramme have greatly contributed to [the country] in achieving internationally agreed developments goals, particularly Hyogo Framework for Action

3. How clear are you about ESCAP's role and mandate in its work related to the subprogramme?

	Frequency
Very clear	5 (36%)
Clear	6 (43%)
Unclear	3 (21%)
Not clear at all	

3.1 The weighted average score is 3.1, including three 'unclear'.

3.2 **Comments by respondents:** Box 2 cites selected comments from respondents. There were six respondents. The identities of respondents are not revealed in this report. The comments generally support the view that respondents feel they understand the role and mandate of ESCAP and most stress the importance of the subprogramme to the achievement of the MDGs and the HFA. One respondent makes comment on 'unclear'. It is not possible to say from the data whether or not the 'unclear' answers are from respondents who may be relatively new to the work and proceedings of ESCAP but it is recommended that ESCAP make special effort to familiarize new representatives of member States.

Box 2: Selected Comments of Respondents

- Note: the identity of respondents is not revealed
1. Under the mandate of ESCAP subprogramme of ICT and DRR promotes the applications of ICT and DRR mechanisms to enhance the socio-economic development of the region using the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals.
 2. Good to have a work plan that has been agreed with the member countries (sub-regionally if need be).

3. ESCAP promotes disaster risk reduction and sustainable development which support the achievement of internationally agreed development goals such as the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) and the Hyogo Framework of Action.
4. ESCAP encourages regional cooperation mechanisms and provides analytical support and technical assistance to address the main issues and policy challenges in the areas of information and communications technology development, disaster risk reduction and space applications.
5. The work of this subprogram is not clearly known, we are not familiar with any of their publications.

4. Comments: in your opinion, what are ESCAP's strengths and weaknesses compared to other development actors in the region, including United Nations entities in this subprogramme

4.1 Comments by respondents: Box 3 cites selected comments from respondents. There were seven respondents. The identities of respondents are not revealed in this report. It may be noted that answers to Q3 show 79% of respondents consider themselves familiar with the role and mandate of ESCAP, but 21% unclear. The responses seem to confirm the view that ESCAP's convening powers are seen as its major comparative advantage among UN agencies for the promotion of its goals, and also its composition as representative of countries across the Asia Pacific region, but the latter is also seen as a challenge in terms of achieving consensus. Some respondents see a weakness in collaboration with partners (in the Pacific in particular) and a lack of clarity in relations with other agencies. Some are concerned with more delineation of the comparative advantages of the subprogramme itself and would like to see more timely information and consultation with stakeholders.

Box 3: Selected Comments of Respondents

Note: the identity of respondents is not revealed

1. A strength is the diverse nature and size of its membership. A weakness is the fact that ESCAP is a consensus driven body which makes decision making on substantive issues very hard.
2. It is a most representative international organization in Asia and the Pacific, and that provides its unique role and strength... ESCAP can perfectly serve as a regional instrument for implementation of global initiatives and programmes... The biggest challenge for the Commission so far is to ensure constant consensus among its members.
3. Lack of presence in the Pacific. This is somewhat alleviated by the setup of the office in Fiji, but there are no ICT/DRR staff ... Weak collaboration with Pacific regional orgs but there have been some progress of late on working with PIFS, PITA and SPC. Better collaboration whereby projects are implemented jointly with regional partners.
4. ESCAP provides the best platform for exchange of experience, knowledge and views, for ... identifying the priorities and areas for regional cooperation... However, decisions of ESCAP need more follow-up, monitoring and evaluation of implementation.
5. ESCAP's convening authority on regional socio-economic development issues... The subprogramme has made progress in promoting partnership between UN entities through meetings and other working groups. It has also been successful progress in engaging non-governmental and other related organizations in the overall ICT development and disaster risk reduction management... Some of the role and comparative advantage of subprograms in different areas are not at all clear. Coordination with regional organizations such as UN entities, ADB and others are not at all clear.

6. ESCAP has great convening power and capacity to provide a comprehensive and inclusive regional forum for high-level discussions on a wide range of policy issues... The ESCAP strength may lie in that it encompasses various socioeconomic issues as they are closely related. However, in some cases, we think that more coordination with member states and timely delivery of information regarding its ongoing activities are needed... However as far weakness is concerned, I believe that ESCAP must organize and promote meetings, consultation with stakeholders on a regular basis to get fruitful results.

5. Please indicate if the right amount of time and resources have been put in by the subprogramme in the various areas of work.

Areas of Work	Too much	Right amount	Too little	Don't know	No reply
ICT		6 (43%)	3 (21%)	4 (29%)	1 (7%)
Disaster risk reduction	1 (7%)	8 (57%)	2 (14%)	2 (14%)	1 (7%)
Space technology applications	1 (7%)	4 (29%)	3 (21%)	5 (36%)	1 (7%)
Modalities					
Committee meetings		12 (86%)	1 (7%)	1 (7%)	
Analytical work (e.g. Asia-Pacific Disaster report)		8 (57%)	2 (14%)	3 (21%)	1 (7%)
Advisory services	1 (7%)	4 (29%)	3 (21%)	5 (36%)	1 (7%)
Regional cooperation mechanisms		8 (57%)	2 (14%)	3 (21%)	1 (7%)
Capacity development/technical cooperation		7 (50%)	3 (21%)	3 (21%)	1 (7%)

Areas of Work	Weighted averages (See Note)
ICT	2.7
DRR	2.6
Space Technology	2.4
Modalities	
ICT and DRR Committees	2.9
Analytical	2.8
Advisory	2.4
RCM	2.8
Capacity development/technical assistance	2.7

Note: 'Right amount' is judged to be the most positive and weighted x3; 'too much' the most negative and weighted x1 (only 3 alternative answers to this question)

5.1 ICT, DRR and Space Technology: The weighted average scores are ICT 2.7, DRR 2.6 and Space technology 2.4. The 'don't knows' figure large in the assessment of ICT and Space Technology, and there is a 'too much' response in the cases of DRR and Space Technology. There is a wide variation among respondents, some answering 'too little', some 'too much' and some 'don't know'.

5.2 ICT and DRR Committees: The weighted average score is 2.9 with one 'don't know'.

5.3 Analytical work: The weighted average score is 2.8 including one 'too little' and three 'don't knows'.

5.4 Advisory services: The weighted average score is 2.4, with one 'too much' and but the answers are overwhelmed by five 'don't knows'.

5.5 Regional cooperation mechanisms: The weighted average score is 2.8, with one 'too little' and three 'don't knows'.

5.6 Capacity development/technical assistance: The weighted average score is 2.7, with three ‘too little’.

5.7 Comment: these are all rather low scores with many ‘don’t knows’ but also several ‘too little’. One interpretation is that respondents think more *could* be done with existing resources (the efficiency issue) or more *should* be done to be effective. The latter might imply a request for additional resources (which probably implies extra-budgetary) or a redirection of resources (the opportunity cost issue). These are all ‘big issue’ questions that are likely to apply to all sectors of ESCAP’s work.

6. Please indicate the extent to which the following areas and modalities of work of the subprogramme has been effective in achieving the subprogramme's objective.

Areas of Work	To a great extent	To some extent	To a small extent	Not at all	Don't know	No reply
ICT	4 (29%)	7 (50%)			3 (21%)	
Disaster risk reduction	4 (29%)	8 (57%)	1 (7%)		1 (7%)	
Space technology applications	3 (21%)	2 (14%)	5 (36%)		3 (21%)	1 (7%)
Modalities						
Committee meetings	4 (29%)	8 (57%)	1 (7%)		1 (7%)	
Analytical work (e.g. Asia-Pacific Disaster report)	4 (29%)	5 (36%)	2 (14%)		3 (21%)	
Advisory services	1 (7%)	6 (43%)	3 (21%)		4 (29%)	
Regional cooperation mechanisms	2 (14%)	10 (71%)			2 (14%)	
Capacity development/technical cooperation	3 (21%)	6 (43%)	2 (14%)		3 (21%)	

Areas of Work	Weighted averages
ICT	3.4
DRR	3.2
Space Technology	2.8
Modalities	
ICT and DRR Committees	3.2
Analytical	3.2
Advisory	2.8
RCM	3.2
Capacity development/technical assistance	3.1

6.1 ICT, DRR and Space Technology: The weighted average scores are ICT 3.4, DRR 3.2 and Space Technology 2.8. The ‘to a small extent’ pulls down Space Technology Applications.

6.2 ICT and DRR Committees: The weighted average score is 3.2.

6.3 Analytical work: The weighted average score is 3.2. More respondents feel that analytical work has been effective ‘to a great extent’ than ‘to a small extent’.

6.4 Advisory services: The weighted average score is 2.8. Fewer respondents feel that advisory services have been effective ‘to a great extent’ than ‘to a small extent’ and the ‘don’t knows’ are four.

6.5 Regional cooperation mechanisms: The weighted average score is 3.2.

6.6 Capacity development/technical assistance: The weighted average score is 3.1. Three respondents feel that capacity development/technical assistance has been effective 'to a great extent' compared with two 'to a small extent'.

7. Do you agree or disagree that the subprogramme has been a “catalyst” for addressing internationally agreed development goals, as contained in the Millennium Declaration (MDGs), the targets of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and action items as identified by the Committee on ICT in 2008 and 2010?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	No reply
ICT for sustainable agriculture and food security	2 (14%)	6 (43%)	1 (7%)		5 (36%)	
ICT connectivity, e.g. broadband network access, mobile telephone penetration, community e-centres	4 (29%)	8 (57%)			2 (14%)	
ICTs for raising the economic and social security of the socially-disadvantaged, e.g. through e-government, e-health, e-education, m-banking and m-finance	4 (29%)	6 (43%)			4 (29%)	
ICT for greater gender equality and opportunity, e.g. ICT professional training for women, equal opportunity hiring policies and procurement policies	4 (29%)	4 (29%)			6 (43%)	
ICT collaboration with the private sector, e.g. advocacy of public-private partnerships	3 (21%)	6 (43%)	1 (7%)		4 (29%)	
ICT capacity building, e.g. for human resources, institutional strengthening	4 (29%)	6 (43%)	1 (7%)		3 (21%)	
ICT statistical tools for mapping socio-economic development and the achievement of the MDGs	2 (14%)	7 (50%)			5 (36%)	
ICTs for disaster risk reduction and emergency communications	5 (36%)	6 (43%)			3 (21%)	
Providing access to and promoting regional collaboration in disaster early warning systems	4 (29%)	8 (57%)			2 (14%)	
Alignment of the work of the ESCAP Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development with the core agenda of ESCAP in promoting inclusive and sustainable development	2 (14%)	5 (36%)		1 (7%)	5 (36%)	1 (7%)

Targets and goals	Weighted averages
ICT for sustainable agriculture and food security	3.1
ICT connectivity, e.g. broadband network access, mobile telephone penetration, community e-centres	3.3
ICTs for raising the economic and social security of the socially-disadvantaged, e.g. through e-government, e-health, e-education, m-banking and m-finance	3.4
ICT for greater gender equality and opportunity, e.g. ICT professional training for women, equal opportunity hiring policies and procurement policies	3.5
ICT collaboration with the private sector, e.g. advocacy of public-private partnerships	3.2
ICT capacity building, e.g. for human resources, institutional strengthening	3.3
ICT statistical tools for mapping socio-economic development and the achievement of the MDGs	3.2
ICTs for disaster risk reduction and emergency communications	3.5
Providing access to and promoting regional collaboration in disaster early warning systems	3.3
Alignment of the work of the ESCAP Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development with the core agenda of ESCAP in promoting inclusive and sustainable development	3.0

- 7.1 **ICT for sustainable agriculture and food security:** The weighted average score is 3.1, including two 'strongly agree' and one 'strongly disagree'. Not a strong result, but two 'strongly agree' as well as five 'don't knows'.
- 7.2 **ICT connectivity:** The weighted average score is 3.3.
- 7.3 **ICTs for raising the economic and social security of the socially-disadvantaged:** The weighted average score is 3.4.
- 7.4 **ICT for greater gender equality and opportunity:** The weighted average score is 3.5, but six 'don't knows' is the highest.
- 7.5 **ICT collaboration with the private sector:** The weighted average score is 3.2. Not a strong result, but three 'strongly agree' and one 'strongly disagree'.
- 7.6 **ICT capacity building:** The weighted average score is 3.3, with rather more 'don't knows' than might be expected.
- 7.7 **ICT statistical tools for mapping socio-economic development:** The weighted average score is 3.2. Not a strong result, with five 'don't knows'.
- 7.8 **ICTs for disaster risk reduction and emergency communications:** The weighted average score is 3.5, a strong result that meets expectations given the current focus of IDD.
- 7.9 **Providing access to and promoting regional collaboration in disaster early warning systems:** The weighted average score is 3.3.
- 7.10 **Alignment of the work of the ESCAP Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development:** The weighted average score is 3.0. The weakest of the results with only seven positives, one negative and five 'don't knows'. Also see Box 4 "Selected Comments".
- 7.11 **Comments by respondents:** Box 4 cites selected comments from respondents. There were seven respondents. The identities of respondents are not revealed in this report. Several of the comments agreed that the subprogramme components 7.1 – 7.10 above have made a positive contribution towards the MDG and HFA goals, while others suggested ways to increase effectiveness by making the effort more 'catalytic', by placing greater focus on 'tangible benefits', by sharing more programme information and by encouraging public-private partnerships.

Box 4: Selected Comments by Respondents

Note: the identity of respondents is not revealed

1. The subprogramme is playing an important role to share knowledge among member States/ associated members on policy options, strategies, best practice of ICT connectivity and integrating policies into national development. The subprogramme is also playing an important role to undertake policy analysis and research in the area of ICT policies and regulations. The subprogramme strengthens the regional cooperative mechanism in the wider use of ICT tools especially internet, broadband development, mobile communications in transaction, e-govt, e-health, e-education, m-banking, security and other applications. Importance is given to enabling policies, regulations and public-private partnership frameworks that would enable private sector to drive broadband growth.
2. ... some activities in this subprogram (e.g. gender implications, statistical data, etc.) should be more "catalyst" in order to make the subprogram fully effective for member states.
3. It is my view that the member-states are not sufficiently informed on the RESAP (last item) activities.

4. May need a more focus with clear tangible benefits rather than just a number of trainings and meetings
5. In order to strengthen the community preparedness for the potential natural disaster, it is critical to promote the public and private partnership in the field of ICT and increase the knowledge and education of community on using information and communication technologies. Especially improving the collaboration with private entities...

8. Do you agree or disagree that the subprogramme has been a “catalyst” for addressing the MDGs, the priority actions of the Hyogo Framework for Action and action items as identified by the Committee on DRR in 2009 and 2011?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	No reply
Space application training and use of satellite imagery for monitoring disasters	3 (21%)	9 (64%)			2 (14%)	
Promotion of the systematic collection and analysis of data on small disasters, including the use of standards, methodologies and guidelines for DRR	3 (21%)	8 (57%)			3 (21%)	
Promotion of national capacity building for collection and processing of data on hazard and vulnerability assessments, disaster preparedness and mitigation and contingency planning	3 (21%)	8 (57%)			3 (21%)	
Provision and promotion of training in practical social and economic disaster assessment methodologies	2 (14%)	8 (57%)			4 (29%)	
Promotion of special attention to gender issues and socio-economic issues in DRR	1 (7%)	6 (43%)	1 (7%)		6 (43%)	
Engagement and particular support for capacity building and regional cooperation in DRR for small island and landlocked countries	1 (7%)	9 (64%)			3 (21%)	1 (7%)
Promotion of workshops on best practices for providing “last mile” capacity building for early warning of disasters	3 (21%)	8 (57%)	1 (7%)		2 (14%)	

Targets and goals	Weighted averages
Space application training and use of satellite imagery for monitoring disasters	3.3
Promotion of the systematic collection and analysis of data on small disasters, including the use of standards, methodologies and guidelines for DRR	3.3
Promotion of national capacity building for collection and processing of data on hazard and vulnerability assessments, disaster preparedness and mitigation and contingency planning	3.3
Provision and promotion of training in practical social and economic disaster assessment methodologies	3.2
Promotion of special attention to gender issues and socio-economic issues in DRR	3.0
Engagement and particular support for capacity building and regional cooperation in DRR for small island and landlocked countries	3.1
Promotion of workshops on best practices for providing “last mile” capacity building for early warning of disasters	3.2

8.1 Space application training and use of satellite imagery for monitoring disasters: The weighted average score is 3.3.

- 8.2 Promotion of the systematic collection and analysis of data on small disasters, including the use of standards, methodologies and guidelines for DRR:** The weighted average score is 3.3.
- 8.3 Promotion of national capacity building for collection and processing of data on hazard and vulnerability assessments, disaster preparedness and mitigation and contingency planning:** The weighted average score is 3.3.
- 8.4 Provision and promotion of training in practical social and economic disaster assessment methodologies:** The weighted average score is 3.2.
- 8.5 Promotion of special attention to gender issues and socio-economic issues in DRR:** The weighted average score is 3.0. Not a strong result, with six 'don't knows'.
- 8.6 Engagement and particular support for capacity building and regional cooperation in DRR for SIDS and LLDCs:** The weighted average score is 3.1. Not a strong result.
- 8.7 Promotion of workshops on best practices for providing "last mile" capacity building for early warning of disasters:** The weighted average score is 3.2.
- 8.8 Comments by respondents:** Box 5 cites selected comments from respondents. There were five respondents. The identities of respondents are not revealed in this report. The comments range from acknowledgement of the importance of the subprogrammes to an appeal for more attention to LLDS to the need for more hazard data sharing to training and technical assistance in DRR.

Box 5: Selected Comments by Respondents

Note: the identity of respondents is not revealed

1. I would prefer a rating before 'agree' such as 'to some extent' as these areas to contribute in some way. But was not too sure about selecting 'agree' whether that meant that yes it contributed/addressed the needs. Most are partially contributing.
2. ... some elements should be more actively addressed, e.g. needs of landlocked countries.
3. The subprogramme is playing important role for mainstreaming the disaster risk reduction into national development policies, creating and strengthening national integrated disaster risk reduction mechanism and implementing key activities as mentioned in the HFA. The subprogramme is also playing important role for strengthening regional cooperative mechanism in support of ICT connectivity and disaster risk reduction management and improve capacity in the field of multi-hazard assessment, preparedness, early warning. One of the main challenges faced in the implementation of HFA in making disaster data available. The subprogramme is providing support in collaboration with the partner agencies and other organizations to make the data available...
4. As certain developing countries have a challenge to get a direct access to the space information or satellite imagery due to the lack of well-trained IT officers, and not able to effectively use the satellite imagery for their disaster risk reduction activities... Organize a national level workshop in each country at which the findings & the implications for national economic development policy will be identified and discussed
5. ... it is essential, first of all, to enhance the capacity of emergency personnel and train them with better facilities. Provision and promotion of training in practical social and economic disaster assessment methodologies. Providing training opportunities to the countries that need technical assistance to undertake assessments in socio-economic disaster impacts is essential to build a technical capacity to assess the overall disaster impact.

9. Gender equality was effectively reflected in activities and results of this subprogramme.

	Frequency
Strongly agree	3 (21%)
Agree	5 (36%)
Disagree	1 (7%)
Strongly disagree	
Don't know	5 (36%)

9.1 **Gender:** The weighted average score is 3.2, with five 'don't knows'. The weighted average scores for the gender question in 7.4 and 8.5 above were 3.5 and 3.0 respectively. There were a large number of 'don't knows' in each case, suggesting at best that gender is not effectively mainstreamed in the minds of these respondents.

9.2 **Comments by respondents:** Box 6 cites selected comments from respondents. There were four respondents. Three respondents feel the subprogramme encourages women to participate, and one feels this is not very effective.

Box 6: Comments by Respondents

Note: the identity of respondents is not revealed

1. Participation of women is encouraged
2. Elaboration of the gender equality issue has not been vividly demonstrated for this purpose.
3. The Subprogram was very inclusive in its implementation for the gender equality issue as many activities have been reflected to promote the gender equality.

10. The subprogramme fully engages its stakeholders in its activities for organizing conferences, expert group meetings, forums, workshops, plans of action, and the delivery of its services, such as the "Asia Pacific Gateway for Disaster Risk Reduction" and the publication Asia-Pacific Disaster Report.

	Frequency
Strongly agree	5 (36%)
Agree	6 (43%)
Disagree	1 (7%)
Strongly disagree	
Don't know	2 (14%)

10.1 The weighted average score is 3.3

11. The subprogramme may unnecessarily duplicate the work of other organizations.

	Frequency
Strongly agree	1 (7%)
Agree	7 (50%)
Disagree	2 (14%)
Strongly disagree	
Don't know	4 (29%)

11.1 The weighted average score is 2.1. (Note: the strongest weight is assigned to 'strongly disagree' as this case relates to a negative proposition.) This is a weak result, suggesting there is some concern and a flag could be raised, but two 'disagree'.

11.2 Comments by respondents: Box 7 cites selected comments from respondents. There were five respondents. Only those in agreement with the statement replied. Although these responses cannot be judged as representative of all potential respondents they show there is some degree of concern.

Box 7: Comments by Respondents

Note: the identity of respondents is not revealed	
1.	It's inevitable.
2.	DRR - need better collaboration of SPC's SOPAC division who is the lead DRR agency for Pacific. .. ICT - need to better collaborate with SPC's PICTO programme which is also the lead coordinating agency for ICT in Pacific.
3.	Several areas of work addressed by the subprogramme appears to overlap with the UN bodies and specialized agencies such as United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Asia Pacific Telecommunity, International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) etc. The work of the subprogram should be reassessed.
4.	Since other Governmental and Non-Governmental organizations are implementing their activities in the same field, it is better not to duplicate the ESCAP activities in order to ensure the effectiveness of the activities and enhancing coordination between different stakeholders.

12. Based on your experience, please rate the following statements on the effectiveness of this subprogramme in collaborating with key partners.

	Very effective	Effective	Ineffective	Very ineffective	Don't know	No reply
Collaborations with other subprogrammes in ESCAP	3 (21%)	7 (50%)			4 (29%)	
Collaborations with UN Country Teams	3 (21%)	6 (43%)	1 (7%)		3 (21%)	1 (7%)
Collaborations with UN organizations	3 (21%)	8 (57%)			3 (21%)	
Collaborations with non-UN regional and subregional entities	2 (14%)	7 (50%)			5 (36%)	

	Weighted averages
Collaborations with other subprogrammes in ESCAP	3.3
Collaborations with UN Country Teams	3.2
Collaborations with UN organizations	3.3
Collaborations with non-UN regional and subregional entities	3.2

12.1 Collaborations with other subprogrammes in ESCAP: The weighted average score is 3.3.

12.2 Collaborations with UN Country Teams: The weighted average score is 3.2, including one 'ineffective'

12.3 Collaborations with UN organizations: The weighted average score is 3.3.

12.4 Collaborations with non-UN regional and subregional entities: The weighted average score is 3.2, including five 'don't knows'.

13. Any comments on how the activities of the subprogramme can be improved?

13.1 Comments by respondents: Box 8 cites selected comments from respondents. There were five respondents. Most comments look to make the subprogramme's activities more effective in one way or another, and one comment suggests achieving this by narrowing down the focus, especially onto practical issues.

Box 8: Comments by Respondents

Note: the identity of respondents is not revealed	
1.	Subprogramme's committees and expert group meetings involve a whole variety of national agencies concerned, consequently they can serve a kind of a "forge" for initiatives and concepts, which may potentially be taken to the global level. Strengthening this component would attract additional participation from the member-states, thus enhancing substantive deliberations at the intergovernmental bodies. Perhaps more proposals should be put forward before the member-countries at these meetings, which would ensure more comprehensive and active deliberations.
2.	ESCAP need to be clear who are their partners. For example, is SPC is their Pacific partner or is it PITA? Or both? ESCAP can have multiple partners of course but need to clear on which areas. Of late they have been working with PITA on DRR when it should be SPC's SOPAC etc.
3.	Generally it seems that the subprogramme has unlimited mandate. The program is dealing all the aspect of ICT and DRR and Space technology. Subprogramme work should be limited and result oriented. The work of subprogramme should be field oriented rather than meeting in the secretariat... Subprogramme intergovernmental process should be more participatory. It should provide greater emphasis to the needs of LDCs.
4.	... usually ESCAP trainings are only allow us to nominate one or two persons to take part, it is important to increase the number of the participants and trainings designed for the emergency personnel which is essential to increase the effectiveness of the emergency management activities.
5.	Timely delivery of information regarding the activities of the subprogramme is needed. It is also required to increase the participation of the member states, particularly developing countries.

14. Respondents:

	Frequency
Member/Associate member of ESCAP	8
Other UN entities	1
non-UN regional/subregional organizations	2
ESCAP secretariat	
Donor organization	
Non-government organization	3
Total respondents	14

B: Responses of the Regional Interagency Working Group on ICT Members

1. There were three returns to the survey. Given the constructive and detailed nature of the responses the names of the two respondents are included.

1. The contribution of the Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD) of ESCAP is relevant to the work of the Regional Interagency Working Group on ICT.	
	Frequency
Strongly agree	2
Agree	1

2. What do you consider to be the comparative advantages the IDD of ESCAP has to offer partnering organizations?	
ICAO APAC Office	Can be used as the central platform for exchange of information. It may also act as the central policy making body for the whole region including the partnering organizations. IDD is taking coordinating role in organizing face to face meetings.
ITU	IDD has made significant efforts and successfully provided and promoted platforms for partnerships with many. Expertise in IDD has also been demonstrated as a key resource for others through joint events, reports and publications, and experts.
UPU	ESCAP is the biggest and the leading organization of UN system in the Region. It also serves as an information hub. Therefore, IDD can play an important role in the Regional Interagency Working Group.

3. What do you think could be the areas of collaboration between the IDD of ESCAP and your organization 2012-2015?	
ICAO APAC Office	ICAO can provide information on the civil aviation telecommunication infrastructure available in the region. Such infrastructure in the each civil airports (like dedicated communication network) can be deployed by the States during the disaster relief. Facilitation at central agency of government level for required facilities and equipment transfer between States is required in order to help resume civil airport/airport or air traffic management services for the required search/rescue operations
ITU	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Project and/or forum on disaster communications for the Asia and the Pacific 2) Promoting of the World Telecommunications and Information Society Day (17 May) 3) Enhancing and strengthening UN partnerships in various areas of telecommunications and ICTs 4) Joint regional forums on telecommunications/ICTs related matters 5) Resource sharing including personnel, report and publications, expertise in ICTs
UPU	Information sharing and disaster assessment.

2. These responses are sufficient to indicate that (i) ESCAP's and IDD's role as provider of platforms for regional discussion and policy promotion is recognized and appreciated, and (ii) partners have constructive ideas for regional cooperation that can advance the MDGs and the HFA. It is important moving forward that the lines of communication between IDD and the RCMs and partnering agencies are two-way. This is especially important in a period of resource constraints when the imperative for IDD will be to focus on the most needed areas of activity where it's value-added is most evident. The importance of partnerships is that the whole can be greater than the sum of the parts, but only when partners are truly collaborating.

Appendix 12: ICT and DRR Committee Reports

The ICT and DRR Committees produce annual reports and a feedback report based upon a questionnaire handed to participants. The following items have been selected from the reports of these two Committees to highlight issues and accomplishments of IDD.

CICT

November 2010

- Asian Gateway for Disaster Risk Reduction and Development: the CICT “expressed strong support for the launch and further development of the [Gateway] and commended the partnership of the secretariat with Microsoft, UNDP, ADPC and ISDR.” (para. 13). The inclusion of Microsoft is the first mention of a private company collaborating with ESCAP at this level, and assuming safeguards are in place for all parties to the partnership – issues of liability, objectivity, inputs, etc. – this may be a harbinger of future multi-public-private partnership arrangements.
- Pakistan: “expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the ESCAP secretariat after the recent catastrophic floods in the country.” (para. 49). This is worthy testimony to the work of IDD in responding to the crises of disasters of nature, to its relevance to the country’s needs, to the efficiency of its fast response, and to being effective in rallying regional assistance.
- Nepal: “The delegation suggested that ESCAP should use more participatory methods in promoting regional cooperation.” (para.64). RCMs are by their very nature difficult to accomplish as they imply protocols between member States.⁶⁶ IDD should be constantly aware of the sensitivities this involves.
- Attendance: “The Committee session was not well attended, with only 33.8% (N=21/62) of ESCAP members and associate members attending” (Summary Assessment, p.1). This seems to imply member States do not see the CICT as being sufficiently relevant to prioritize attendance. CICT meetings are not at ministerial level, although they are chaired by a minister from Thailand. Logistics – time and travel and accommodation issues – are no doubt a problem for many delegates not already stationed in Bangkok as permanent representatives (PRs) of their Capitals, and even PRs have a wide variety of other official duties and responsibilities, so many are not well versed in the issues. As one interviewee put it ‘they are diplomats, not experts and specialists.’ Three solutions that may be considered are (i) using teleconferencing at least for parts of the session; (ii) restructuring the agenda to provide more focus for sub-regional issues and interests; (iii) encouraging higher-income member States to sponsor delegates from low-income

⁶⁶ In September 2010 “the secretariat launched the Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Disaster Monitoring and Early Warning, Particularly Drought. The secretariat will give full support to its development after a permanent secretariat is officially chosen at a December meeting in Manila within the framework of the Regional Cooperation for Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, or RESAP.” Dr Noeleen Heyzer (Under-Secretary General, UN and Executive Secretary of ESCAP) *Welcome Statement*, CICT, 2nd Session, 24-26 November 2010, p.3.

member States to aid their participation.⁶⁷ These and no doubt other measures, such as making information materials more accessible to PRs who are new to the job or who have less experience in ICT and DRR issues, could make the CICT more effective.

- Questionnaire: The Summary paper publishes the responses to the end-of-meeting questionnaire. Of the 21 delegates, 9 returned answers.⁶⁸ The Summary cites the percentages answering to a 5-point Likert scale. If a weighted average procedure is used instead a clearer picture emerges of the relative strengths and weaknesses of the answers. Using weights 5 down to 1 for the most positive down to the most negative and dividing by the number of responses (ignoring ‘No answer’) the maximum *positive* score would be 5. Table A12 identifies those answers that fall below 4 using this method.

Table A12: CICT Survey Results 2010

Question	Weighted average
The pre-session documents were issued in a timely manner	3.9
Expected outcome: Member States are informed and decide on any outstanding concerns related to the CICT	3.0
To what extent did the CICT succeed in identifying priorities and emerging issues, particularly those with implications for the work of the secretariat	3.1
Promote dialogue on regional and subregional approaches and an exchange of experiences on policies and programmes	3.7
Promote a collaborative approach to addressing the development challenges at the regional and subregional levels	3.9
The CICT was owned and driven by member States	3.7

Altogether there were 23 questions, of which the six listed in [Table 9](#) fell below a weighted average of 4. They seem to raise two flags: how far participants feel they ‘own’ the CICT sessions, and how far do participants feel that the approach to regional and subregional issues is effective. But the 2011 survey of the DRR Committee is much more positive on the regional/subregional issue (see DRR below) which suggests that regional/subregional initiatives on ICTs not directly related to DRR are viewed in a different light. No statistical significance can be attached to any of these results.⁶⁹

November 2008

- Questionnaire: The results of the 2008 CICT assessment are summarized in an ‘Overall Assessment’ paper which does not include the details of the survey, or even the number of respondents, but it is worth noting that ‘With regard the timely submission of pre-session documents, 36% “fully agreed” ... and the majority ‘partially agreed’ (64%).’ This item also appears in Table A12 above.

⁶⁷ A system based on the initiatives of individual States would be the most flexible; a pooling system would be the most equitable.

⁶⁸ No reasons are offered. It is possible that many of the delegates were absent when the questionnaire was collected. This is an example of the problem with using this technique of evaluation.

⁶⁹ The Summary report notes: “Of the least successful features of the session were; time constraints, lack of information of ICT progress, target of Committee session was not focused and one least successful feature of the Committee session was the High-level forum on ICT for development and DRR” (p.3) A useful list of comments from participants is included under ‘Additional comments’.

DRR

June-July 2011 and March 2009

- RESAP: 'The Committee... expressed the desire to see RESAP fulfill the broader vision that was present at its inception in the 1990s by becoming an integral part of the core of ESCAP agenda of inclusive and sustainable economic and social development' (para. 65). In a Committee agenda rich in progress reports on DRR developments this is a rare mention of a socio-economic agenda.
- Attendance: only 26 participants. See comments above for the CICT.
- 17 of the 26 participants responded to the feedback questionnaire. Converting the answers to weighted averages as above there were no low scores at all.⁷⁰ The two lowest related to 'The organization of work prior to/in between Committee sessions contributed to the effective functioning of the Committee (ACPR, working groups, task forces, communication with the secretariat)' and ESCAP's activities 'To provide guidance to the secretariat on its work related to the Typhoon Committee and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones.' It should also be noted that the highest score was 'Promote dialogue on regional and subregional approaches and an exchange of experiences on policies and programmes'. This stands in contrast to the relatively low score to this question in the CICT suggesting non-disaster related ICT regional/subregional initiatives are seen by CICT delegates as less being somewhat effective (see above).

March 2009

- Duplication: 'One delegate noted that the prospect of establishing an Asia-Pacific Gateway on disaster risk reduction and development ... would entail significant expense. Additionally, as many networks had already been developed by other organizations, the duplication of their work should be avoided.' (para. 46) The two most widely used online networks for DRR are the Prevention website⁷¹ run by ISDR and Relief⁷² run by UNOCHA. In addition there are sites run by UNDP and the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction.⁷³ If the Gateway can provide *new* information and analysis that genuinely adds value or can provide an innovative way to engage with officials and communities that existing channels do not offer then there is a strong case for it. But a flag was raised.
- Trust Fund: 'Several delegates commended ESCAP secretariat for administering the Tsunami Regional Trust Fund efficiently and transparently...' (para. 85). The Trust Fund is quintessentially a tangible accomplishment.
- Attendance and Questionnaire: 66% or (N=20/30) answered the questionnaire. Using the weighted average approach there was only one answer from 24 questions that fell 20%

⁷⁰ For Q1 the max score possible was 4 and the lowest attained was 3.5, and for all other questions the maximum was 5 and the two lowest 4.1

⁷¹ <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/>

⁷² <http://reliefweb.int/>

⁷³ <http://www.beta.undp.org/undp/en/home/ourwork/crisispreventionandrecovery/overview.html> and <http://www.gfdr.org/gfdr/>

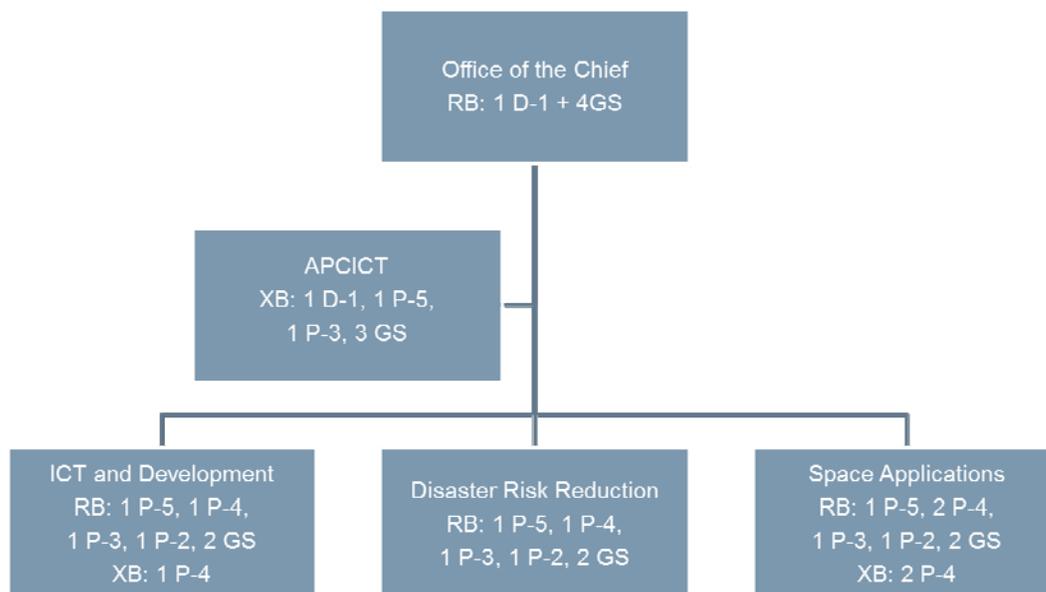
or more below the maximum possible score.⁷⁴ 'To what extent did the deliberations ... meet the expected outcomes as described below: To provide the secretariat with guidance on its work related to DRR, including possible work programme outputs that could be reflected in the programme of work 2010-2011'. The overall results suggest delegates feel the DRR Committee serves them well, but it is worth noting at least one of the individual comments: 'Listen more to countries on their specific needs and less formal format if discussion.' (p.8)

⁷⁴ For all questions but one the maximum weighted average score is 5, so below 4 is 20% or more below 5.

Appendix 13: Staffing

Twenty-four of the 27 staff-in-post by late 2011 were covered by the Regular Budget (Section 18), one from the RPTC budget and 2 from the XB as shown in diagram 5. Also shown is the staffing of the APCICT (Asia Pacific Centre for Information & Communications Technologies) for which IDD is the 'back-stopping' division. However APCICT is not the subject of this Report.⁷⁵

Diagram A13: Staffing in IDD for 2010-2011



(Note: D is director level; P is professional level; GS is general staff level)

The level of staff engagement with activities, such as RPTC funded technical assistance and XB funded projects, is examined below from data gleaned from the IDD Project Reports. The IDD uses a notional USD12,700 per month to value an 'in kind' input of professional staff to projects funded by the XB budget⁷⁶; for consultants funded by donors' contributions to the XB the cost is notionally USD15,000.

It can be seen that IDD relies heavily upon ESCAP professional staff to carry out the XB-funded activities while engaging relatively few contracted technical experts/specialists.⁷⁷

Table A13.1: Staff Vacancy Rates

⁷⁵ APCICT was subject to a Review, presented to the 66th Session of the Commission, 13-19 May 2010.

⁷⁶ There is no institutionally agreed way of determining the value of such in-kind contributions.

⁷⁷ As of January 2012, three NRL experts were with IDD, two seconded from ROK and one from Japan.

IDD Vacancy Statistics															
Section	2008 Approved	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average	
018	Professionals	14	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	2	2	-	-	-	
	Vacancy rate		7.14%	7.14%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	7.14%	14.29%	14.29%	0.00%	0.00%	4.76%	
	GS	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Vacancy rate		0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
	Total	21	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	2	2	-	-	-	
	Vacancy rate		4.76%	4.76%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	4.76%	4.76%	9.52%	9.52%	0.00%	0.00%	3.17%	
Section	2009 Approved	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average	
018	Professionals	14	1	2	-	2	2	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	
	Vacancy rate		7.14%	14.29%	0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	7.14%	14.29%	7.14%	7.14%	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	
	GS	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Vacancy rate		0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
	Total	21	1	2	-	2	2	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	
	Vacancy rate		4.76%	9.52%	0.00%	9.52%	9.52%	4.76%	9.52%	4.76%	4.76%	0.00%	0.00%	4.76%	
Section	2010 Approved	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average	
018	Professionals	14	-	1	1	2	1	1	1	-	1	1	2	-	
	Vacancy rate		0.00%	7.14%	7.14%	14.29%	7.14%	7.14%	7.14%	0.00%	7.14%	7.14%	14.29%	7.14%	
	GS	10	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	
	Vacancy rate		0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	14.29%	14.29%	14.29%	14.29%	14.29%	9.52%	
	Total	24	-	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	3	-	
	Vacancy rate		0.00%	5.10%	5.10%	10.20%	9.86%	9.86%	9.86%	9.86%	4.76%	9.86%	9.86%	8.28%	
Section	2011 Approved	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average	
018	Professionals	14	-	1	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	
	Vacancy rate		0.00%	7.14%	14.29%	7.14%	0.00%	7.14%	7.14%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	4.17%	
	GS	10	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Vacancy rate		0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	0.00%	14.29%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	3.57%	
	Total	24	-	2	3	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	
	Vacancy rate		0.00%	9.86%	14.97%	5.10%	4.76%	5.10%	5.10%	5.10%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	4.17%	