

II - E. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The DSIR has maintained effective coordination and co-operation with various international organizations such as UNCTAD, WIPO, UNIDO, ESCAP, and UNESCO at different levels, in association with other Ministries concerned wherever required, on various technology issues related to Technology Development and Technology Transfer, APCTT and ESCAP.

The Matters pertaining to the APCTT under UN ESCAP were dealt with the cooperation of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and the Ministry of External Affairs. DSIR continues to play the role of being the focal point for the APCTT. DSIR plays an active role in its functioning, on issues related to its programmes and policies and in preparing necessary briefs on technological issues for use of the Indian Delegation to the Annual Sessions of ESCAP and the APCTT Governing Board.

The Government of India continued to provide institutional support of US\$ 200,000 in Indian Rupees to the APCTT for both the host facilities and local costs. A programme support of US\$100,000 in Indian Rupees was contributed towards the APCTT Regional Programme on National Innovation Systems.

A revised statute currently adopted stipulates *inter alia* that the Centre shall have a Technical Committee consisting of experts from members and associate members of UNESCAP and from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and a Governing Council consisting of a representative designated by the Government of India and eight representatives nominated by other members and associate members of ESCAP elected by the Commission. Besides, along with the host country India, the

following countries were elected as members of the Governing Council of the Centre for the period 2005 - 2008: Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

1. ACTIVITIES OF APCTT

During 2005, the activities of APCTT were directed towards technology capacity-building, promotion and management of innovation as well as sub-regional and regional networking. The Centre focused on: Technology Information, Technology Transfer and Innovation Management. The main target groups of users are small and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs) and intermediaries/SME support service providers. APCTT's technology information and transfer advisory services are provided through the following:

Technology Exchange Service

APCTT provides a technology trade platform to seekers and providers of technologies and renders technology exchange and transfer services with a view to promoting technology cooperation and trade among organizations and enterprises of the Asia-Pacific region. APCTT receives technology offers from research institutions, universities and companies including large-scale companies and intermediaries, especially for SMEs.

Technical Periodicals and Publications

The Centre keeps SMEs and policy makers up-to-date on the latest technological developments and new and emerging issues through the following periodicals and publications:

- The Asia Pacific Tech Monitor (ISSN 0256-9957).

- Under the Value Added Technology Information Service (VATIS), the Centre brings out bimonthly periodicals on Non-Conventional Energy (ISSN 0971-5630), Waste Management (formerly Waste Technology) (ISSN 0971-5665), Biotechnology (ISSN 0971-5622), Food Processing (ISSN 0971-5649) and Ozone Layer Protection (ISSN 0971-5657).

The web-based version of the technology-oriented periodicals is available at www.techmonitor.net.

Technology Information and Transfer Networks

APCTT facilitates the establishment of networks of technology transfer intermediaries in the region to promote cross-border business cooperation among SMEs. The Centre has established the following networks:

- Technology Transfer Network for Small and Medium-scale Enterprises in the Asia Pacific Region;
- Biotechnology Information Network for Asia (BINASIA); and
- Asia Pacific Traditional Medicine and Herbal Technology (APTMNET) Network.

Technology Transfer Network For Smes In The Asia Pacific Region

The project, funded by the Government of Germany is aimed at enhancing the capacity of institutions/intermediaries in member countries to deliver technology transfer services to contribute to the improvement of the competitiveness of SMEs. Following events were organized:

- Consultative Meeting for “Business-Asia.net”, 1 February 2005, New Delhi, India

- Road Mapping Workshop for Technology4sme.net and Business-Asia.net, 21-22 March 2005, New Delhi, India
- Progress Meeting and Training on Technology4sme.net and Business-Asia.net, 9-10 August 2005, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
- Meeting of Network Coordinators for Technology4sme.net and Business-Asia.net Websites, 3-5 November 2005, Shanghai, China

Biotechnology Information Network For Asia (Binasia)

With support from the Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of Korea and in cooperation with the Korea Research Institute of Bioscience and Biotechnology (KRIBB), the APCTT has established a Biotechnology Information Network in Asia (BINASIA). The following activities were carried out under this project in 2005.

- *BINASIA National Workshop*, 27-28 January 2005, Hanoi, Viet Nam
- *BINASIA National Workshop*, 6-7 April 2005, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- *BINASIA National Workshop*, 27-28 July 2005, Jakarta, Indonesia
- *BINASIA National Workshop*, 7-8 November 2005, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Asia Pacific Traditional Medicine and Herbal Technology (APTMNET) Network

The Asia-Pacific Traditional Medicine and Herbal Technology Network (APTMNET) is an informative website for development of traditional medicine. The network addresses issues relating to bio-diversity, protection of traditional knowledge, sustainable industrial utilization of natural resources, and promotion

of sound agronomical practices at the grassroots level. An Asia-Pacific Traditional Medicine Forum & Expo was organized in Wuhan, China. The event consisted of a Forum, an Expo, a Business Promotion Workshop and a Field Visit. The Second Meeting of the APTMNET Executive Council was held in conjunction with this event. During this meeting, India was elected as the Chairperson. China and Malaysia were elected as Vice Chairpersons for 2005-2006. Since China is hosting the APTMNET Secretariat, China would also hold the office of Member Secretary. The work plan for 2005-2006 was also drawn up.

2. CURRENT PROJECTS

Promoting National Innovation Systems (NIS) in Member Countries

This project was designed to influence policy-makers to appreciate the relevance and importance of NIS, develop policy frameworks that enable key actors - industries, R&D institutions and universities - to adopt and participate in such systems. The following programmes were organised in 2004 and 2005:

- *Seminar on NIS* on 30 November 2004 in Dhaka, Bangladesh organized in cooperation with the Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR). The main purpose of the Seminar was to identify and exchange “good practices” in areas such as R&D policy and programmes, operational framework of government supported research institutions, promotion of private sector R&D, public/private partnerships and science and technology infrastructure development towards NIS.
- *Asia-Pacific Forum on NIS* during 28-29 April 2005 in New Delhi, India. The deliberations and presentations made at

the Forum highlighted the importance of a well-designed NIS framework particularly in the context of globalization. The proceedings of this Forum have been brought out as a publication.

- *NIS – Thailand Summit 2005 – Mobilizing Value Creation in Bio-business*, 21-22 September 2005, Bangkok, Thailand organized in conjunction with the Conference on *InnovAsia 2005* held from 21-23 September in Bangkok. The workshop focused on the themes: (i) National Innovation System for Biotechnology; and (ii) Value Creation in Bio-Business. An expert from Korea provided the global scenario and developments concerning biotechnology and bio-business. Three experts from India presented some biotechnology specific strategies, schemes and practices to promote bio-innovation and biotechnology in India.
- *Workshop on NIS*, 4-5 October 2005 at Colombo, Sri Lanka. Cases and presentations on NIS policy framework were made leading to key recommendations for use by Policy Makers, Academia, Industries and R&D Institutions.

3. NEW INITIATIVES

APCTT has formulated the following project proposals for implementation by the Centre in 2006 and 2007:

- Enhanced Access to ICT in Rural and Remote Areas in the Asia-Pacific Region.
- Promotion of Grassroots Innovation in Countries of the Asia Pacific Region.
- Establishing an R&D Network in the Asia Pacific Region.

Foreign Deputations from DSIR during 2005-2006:

- UNESCO-SLLA Regional Workshop on Web Cataloguing, February 21-25, 2005 at Colombo, **Sri Lanka**
- 56th Sitting of the Committee of Plenipotentiary Representatives (CPR) of the International Centre for Scientific & Technical Information (ICSTI) and International Conference on Information Technologies and International Science & Technological Cooperation, May 24-27th 2005 at Riga, Latvia.
- APCTT Progress Meeting and Training on Technology4sme.com and Business-asia.net, August 9-10 2005 at Tehran, **Islamic Republic of Iran.**
- Mobilizing Value Creation in Bio-Business: NIS Thailand Summit and APCTT Workshop on National Innovation Systems in Asia and the Pacific, 2005, September 21-22 2005 at Bangkok, **Thailand.**
- Meeting of the Network Partners for the Technology4sme.net website and Focal Points of the Business-Asia.net website, Tong Mao Hotel, November 3-5, 2005 at Shanghai, **People's Republic of China**
- Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) Training Program at the John F.Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, November 27 to December 11 2005 at Boston, **USA**
- 7th International Conference on Multipurpose High-Rise Towers and Tall Buildings, December 10-11, 2005 at Dubai, **UAE**
- Congress on Government, University and Industries Cooperation for Development, December 13-15, 2005 at Tehran, **Islamic Republic of Iran.**
- Regional Consultative Meeting on Sub-National Innovation systems and Technology Capacity building to enhance competitiveness of SMEs, January 18-20, 2006 at Seoul, **Republic of Korea**
- First Session of the Governing Council, First Meeting of the Technical Committee and APCTT-PCSIR Workshop on National Innovation Systems (NIS), February 7-9, 2006 at Colombo, **Srilanka.**
- Asia Conference on Technology Transfer 2006, March 14-17, 2006 at Seoul, **Republic of Korea.**
- Consultation meeting with Network Partners for Technology4sme.net and Business-asia.net, March 15 -17, 2006 at Seoul, **Republic of Korea.**

Joint Commissions

- DSIR was represented in the Indo-Spanish Joint Commission and also Indo-Vietnamese Joint Commission Meetings
- A Chinese delegation met DSIR Officers to exchange experiences on Regional Centres of ESCAP.
- A Korean Delegation exchanged experiences with DSIR and also on APCTT.