

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology

Twelfth session

19-21 December 2016

Islamabad, Pakistan

Agenda item 4: High-level substantive segment: International Conference on Innovation Strategies for Sustainable Development

**International Conference on
Innovation Strategies for Sustainable Development**

Draft information notice

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. During the eleventh session of the Governing Council (GC) of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) which took place in New Delhi on 18 December 2015, the delegation from Pakistan offered to host the twelfth session of the APCTT GC in Islamabad.
2. APCTT proposes to organize an international conference on Innovation Strategies for Sustainable Development, as a substantive segment of the APCTT-GC. This draft information notice is prepared for the consideration of the host government.

II. Background

3. At a Global Summit on 25-27 September 2015 in New York, the United Nations adopted the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The outcome document states that “poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development.” It calls on the international community to “commit to work together to promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection.”
4. Fostering innovation has been identified as a key element to achieve the sustainable development goals through:

* To be confirmed in consultation with the host government

- Upgrading infrastructure and retrofitting of industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capacities;
- Enhancing scientific research, upgrading the technological capacities of industrial sectors in all countries, encouraging innovation;
- Increasing the number of research and development workers and public and private research and development spending;
- Increasing the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets;
- Increasing the access to information and communications technology.

5. Having taken into account these elements, the UN Secretary General, in his synthesis report on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, stressed the need to, “invest in innovation and in development of clean and sound technologies for sustainable development,” thus ensuring such technologies are fairly priced, broadly disseminated and fairly absorbed, including to and by developing countries. He called for “multi-stakeholder, solution-driven initiatives” and “solution-driven technology partnerships” among a variety of actors.

6. APCTT together with the ESCAP Trade, Investment and Innovation Division has been supporting ESCAP member countries to strengthen Science, Technology and Innovation policy and facilitating cross-border business partnerships and technology transfers. Therefore, it is well placed to contribute to this particular part of the sustainable development agenda.

II. Objectives and format

7. The objectives of the conference are to:
- Discuss the role of public policies in facilitating innovation and effective partnerships for sustainable development;
 - Exchange best international practices and strategies in order to encourage innovation and innovative entrepreneurship;
 - Exchange best international practices and strategies for technology transfers.
8. In consultation with the host government, the proposed conference could have a focus on specific sectors.
9. Within these three focus areas, experts could elaborate on the following aspects of innovation strategies for sustainable development:
- (a) Promoting inclusive and equitable science and technology education, entrepreneurship education for sustainable development - ensuring gender equality;
 - (b) Policies and good practices to support innovation for sustainable development, which will increase resource-use efficiency and lead to greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes;

(c) Strategies to promote the acceleration of the innovation-to-market-to-public-good cycle of clean and environmentally sound technologies. How to increase demand for such innovations?

(d) Good practices on financing clean and environmentally sound innovations in micro-, small and medium sized enterprises. Practical experiences in public and private funding;

(e) Multi-stakeholder cooperation and the sharing of costs for research, development, demonstration, and the diffusion of new technologies for sustainable development;

(f) Best practices in promoting networking, information sharing, knowledge transfer and technical assistance, in order to advance the scaling-up of clean technology initiatives;

(g) Concrete examples of innovation opportunities to reduce environmental impacts, and social and inclusive innovations;

(h) Initiatives for technology transfer and the dissemination of sustainable technologies to developing countries;

(i) Strategies to facilitate access to the benefits of innovation for all, including the poorest.

10. The Conference will start with high-level keynote speeches. It will be followed by round table and thematic discussions where political and business leaders introduce strategic policy issues for sustainable development. The exchange of policy experience will also contribute to building capacity for participants.

III. Organization and venue

13. The International Conference will be organized as a part of the substantive segment of the twelfth session of the APCTT Governing Council in cooperation with the host Government.

IV. Participation

14. Participation is open to the Governing Council members of APCTT, interested parties from UNESCAP member States and other Member States of the United Nations, representatives of United Nations specialized agencies and international organizations participating in the activities of UNESCAP. Experts, representatives of the business and academic communities as well as the civil society are welcome to attend.

15. Host governments is invited to inform national entities and institutions, business and industry associations, academic institutions and other relevant organizations about the upcoming Conference and encourage participation of experts.

V. Conference fee

16. No conference fee is charged for participation in the International Conference. However, prior registration is mandatory for participation.