

ESCAP AND ADB AS FACILITATING ORGANIZATIONS FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION

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1. Introduction

Asia and the Pacific is still the most dynamic region in the world. This region's recent past growth has been dependent on its promotion of foreign direct investment and export orientation. De facto economic integration is already well-developed in this region. With the slow progress in multilateral trade liberalization, FTAs have become quite pervasive in the region. The WTO's RTA database shows that the current number of RTAs in force is 191, with 71 of these involving Asian and Pacific countries¹. The ADB's ARIC database shows that 82 RTAs are currently being implemented. The subject is persuasively discussed in the ADB's 2008 Study, *Emerging Asian Regionalism*. In essence Asia has been observing more spontaneous, market-driven regional integration. Although largely spontaneous and market-driven, both ESCAP and the ADB have also been playing positive roles to make this happen. For example, ESCAP initiated the Asian Highway Project, which provides a cross-country road network across the whole region, thus linking countries for trade and investment. The ADB has not only provided infrastructure necessary for economic integration to emerge, it contributed to the concept, formation and initiation of projects like the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) cooperation scheme. Both can function as organizations to do what individual countries cannot do, or to provide public goods that remain in short supply, and both can help the institutionalization of regional cooperation by providing coordination, information gathering and dissemination, dispute settlement and so forth. In the past both organizations have led the region in many aspects of economic cooperation.

ESCAP was established just after WWII, together with other regional organizations of the UN, such as the ECLA. Being a UN organization ESCAP serves as a platform for member countries to discuss issues of development, and many political projects had their foundation here. In this sense, ESCAP performed as the region's spokesman and development agenda-setter. Thus, it was natural for ESCAP to propose the establishment of the ADB, since financing for development was in great demand during the postwar period².

In terms of their roles as regional institution, both ESCAP and the ADB act as facilitating institutions. For this region to develop, ESCAP and the ADB have been playing a focal role. In

¹ These numbers are as of August 31, 2009 at <http://rtais.wto.org/ui/PublicMaintainRTAHome.aspx>

² According to the memoir of Mr. Watanabe, the first President of the ADB, the idea of the ADB was first developed by the Ministry of Finance of Japan, which waited until some international forum suggested a similar idea for the project to be realized. ESCAP made the timely suggestion of establishing the organization, and the government of Japan, of course, provided full support. Takeshi Watanabe, *Diary of ADB President (Ajia Kaigin Sosai Nikki)*, 1973 (in Japanese).

some areas they cooperate, but in general, their roles are more or less complementary to each other. ESCAP is prominent in idea-setting and coordination while ADB is a fund provider.

This paper sketches the salient activities of both organizations in the context of their roles as institutions for regional integration. The current regional integration environment in the region is complex and dynamic. Quick and practical ways to promote subregional integration efforts, such as GMS, are considered to be a success, and yet this produces further complicated issues, such as the local government vs. central government gap, and disparities of benefits among participating countries. The paper aims to describe the activities, achievements, and future development of ESCAP and the ADB in their roles as regional institutions, in a survey format.

The next section treats history, organization, and structure of ESCAP. In section 3, we focus on ESCAP's activities, while Section 4 discusses ESCAP's offspring institutions. Then we do the same for ADB: Section 5 treats history, organization and structure of ADB, Section 6 discusses activities in general, while section 7 examines offspring institutions. Section 8 highlights subregional programs. The final section concludes the paper with views on the future.

2. ESCAP: History, Organization and Structure

ESCAP started as the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) in Shanghai in 1947 to assist in post-war economic reconstruction. This was one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the six principal organs of the UN and responsible for the direction and coordination of economic, social, humanitarian, and cultural activities. ECOSOC created the following five regional commissions:

- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

ESCAP is the biggest of the UN's five regional commissions in terms of population served and area covered. It covers a geographically wide area of countries including members outside East Asia³. The difference of membership between ESCAP and ADB is as follows. ESCAP has

³ UNESCAP members are: Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Fiji, France, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republ, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Korea (Democratic People's Republic of), Korea (the Republic of), Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands (the), Micronesia (Federated), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands (the), New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines (the), Russian Federation (the), Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the), United States of Ame, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, American Samoa, Cook Islands (the), French Polynesia, Guam, Hong Kong, China, Macao, China, New Caledonia, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands (the).

ADB developing member countries are: Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, People's Republic of, Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, Georgia, Hong Kong, China, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Korea, Republic of, Kyrgyz Republic, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Republic of the, Micronesia, Federated States of, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Pakistan, Palau, Republic of, Papua New

more members than the ADB, such as Brunei Darussalam, Iran, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, American Samoa, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Niue, and the Northern Mariana Islands. Taipei, China, meanwhile, is a member of the ADB but not ESCAP.

The major functions of ESCAP are:

- promotion of economic and social development through regional and subregional cooperation and integration;
- acting as the primary economic and social development forum for the region within the UN system; and
- formulation and promotion of development assistance activities and projects to meet the needs and priorities of the region, and acting as the executing agency for relevant operational projects.

As the first function indicates, regional and subregional cooperation and integration is a priority area for ESCAP.

The main legislative organ of ESCAP is the Commission. The Commission meets annually at the ministerial level and reports to ECOSOC. It provides a forum for all Governments of the region to review and discuss economic and social issues and to strengthen regional cooperation. The forum function is very important in setting up ideas and policy agendas for regional integration. For example, in 2006, the theme of the Commission was "Enhancing regional cooperation in infrastructure development, including that related to disaster management." A special feature of the Session was the Pacific Leaders' United Nations ESCAP Special Session (PLUS), which provided a unique Asian and Pacific intergovernmental platform for Pacific leaders to articulate their concerns and engage in interactive dialogue with other delegations from UNESCAP members.

3. ESCAP Activities, Achievement, and Future Developments

Well before the waves of Asian regionalism, ESCAP initiated a preferential trading arrangement. The Bangkok Agreement (BA), was signed in 1975 by five initial members (Bangladesh, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka) and was notified to GATT in 1976. Although BA, which is discussed below in depth, was a pioneering economic integration effort, due to the small trade volumes among members, the impact was a limited one.

ESCAP has been contributing more in the fields of infrastructure-building and cooperation and facilitation of trade and investment, which are the basic requirements of economic integration. ESCAP also has established many offspring institutions, which are discussed in section 4. Here we will briefly review the activities of ESCAP in these fields.

Transportation Infrastructure

Transportation and logistics support is a prerequisite for a regionally integrated market. Some Asian countries have expanded their transport infrastructure. But they are still lagging behind advanced nations since transport densities and effective network access levels are still much lower.

Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Taipei, China, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam

The important early contribution in this regard is to have provided efficient and reliable international routes and networks. This implies either developing new infrastructure or upgrading existing national and international infrastructure.

The Asian Highway (AH)⁴ was started in 1959, with the aim of promoting the development of international road transport in the region. This project is a cooperative project among countries in Asia and Europe and the ESCAP.

Although the first phase of the project (1960-1970) witnessed considerable progress, it slowed down when financial assistance was suspended in 1975. ESCAP identified the development and strengthening of intra- and inter-regional transport and communication linkages as a major objective. ESCAP, in 1992, initiated the integrated Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development (ALTID) project in this context. This includes the Trans-Asian Railway (TAR) and Asian Highway Network (AHN) projects to support cross-border infrastructure development through technical and capital assistance. After being suspended, AH was later revived, and has been expanded to cover around 140,000 kilometers of roads and 55 Asian cross-border highway routes passing through 32 Asian states. With the enforcement of the intergovernmental agreement (IGA)⁵ on the AHN in July 2005, the AHN has been playing a catalytic role in developing international highways in the Asia and Pacific region.

Like the Asian Highway, the Trans-Asian Railway (also an IGA) was implemented to improve the efficiency of rail transport infrastructure in Asia. On 11 June 2009, countries throughout Asia committed to coordinate the development and operation of international rail routes linking 28 countries through out the region⁶.

For this important project, a significant part of the funding comes from the larger, more advanced nations, as well as international agencies such as ADB.

Trade Facilitation

Trade facilitation measures are important in enhancing gains from trade liberalization. Inefficient and poor trade infrastructures can act as barriers to trade and to regional integration as well.

In trade facilitation, ESCAP assists member countries to promote the simplification, harmonization, and standardization of trade procedures to reduce the cost as well as the time of the transactions. It also facilitates trade and investment flows, in particular regarding trade finance and e-commerce.

In this context ESCAP has been endeavoring to provide many training programs. They include e-Government, a transport education network, ICT training courses (ESCAP ICT Training Center), simpler customs procedures, a regional network to cut red tape in international trade, and so on. They launched officially the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (UN NExT). This Network establishes a community of knowledge and

⁴ Asian Highway Handbook, UNESCAP, 2003.

⁵ The Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network (IGA) was adopted on November 18, 2003, by the Intergovernmental Meeting; the IGA includes Annex I, which identifies 55 AH routes among 32 member countries totalling approximately 87,500 miles (140,000 km), and Annex II "Classification and Design Standards." During the 60th session of the ESCAP Commission at Shanghai, China, in April 2004, the IGA treaty was signed by 23 countries. By 2007, 28 countries were signatories, which subsequently rose to 32 countries in 2008.

⁶ ESCAP news release, 8 June 2009

practices for the purpose of capacity-building on international standards and solutions. It also helps bridge the gap between policymakers and technical experts in trade facilitation, and acts as a clearing house for sharing lessons from the countries at the forefront of trade facilitation.

Compared with other areas, countries in Asia and the Pacific region differ substantially in their development stages. For regional cooperation to work smoothly, international efforts are required to shrink the gaps in many areas. ESCAP and the ADB have been directly involved in such activities. One example is ESCAP's help to Cambodia. ESCAP conducted a national seminar on Internet governance in Phnom Penh⁷. The event was organized in collaboration with the National ICT Development Authority (NiDA) of Cambodia, with financial support from the government of the Republic of Korea. Cambodia, a country of 14 million people, has 1.5 million mobile phone service subscribers, and the number is growing at 40 per cent a year. The Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access (WiMAX), a wireless digital communications system, has already covered the capital area. As is exemplified by this, ESCAP mediates between those demanding services and governments which provide the funds. ESCAP provided similar services to Mongolia, Pacific Island Nations, and Afghan Government⁸.

4. ESCAP: Offspring Institutions

As described above, ESCAP assists in modernizing Asian highways and railways under the Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development Programme.

ESCAP also helped established many other institutions. In the early days, the Asian Development Bank was established in 1966, and the Mekong River Commission in 1995. ESCAP has created a few institutions in the recent past. They are:

- The Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (APCAEM),
- Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)
- The United Nations Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (UN-APCICT),
- Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP);
- Asia and Pacific Center for Transfer of Technology (APCTT).

From the viewpoint of regional integration APTA is a direct effort, while UN-APCICT, APCAEM, and APCTT facilitate regional integration. SIAP simply assists evaluations, for example by providing statistics. Thus, we will discuss APTA at greater length, and consider more briefly APCICT and APCAEM. The details of all of the above offspring institutions will be summarized in the appendix.

UN-APCICT

APCICT was inaugurated on 16 June 2006 as a subsidiary body of the ESCAP, and is located in Incheon, Republic of Korea, with the host government being the Republic of Korea. Its mission is to strengthen the efforts of the ESCAP member countries to use ICT in their socio-economic development. Training, research and advisory services are the three pillars of its activities.

⁷ ESCAP's Press Release No: G/33/2007.

⁸ SAARC region effort is for example. Similarly, Aug 4, 2000 - United Nations Economic and Social commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) would help in developing Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) and other electronic commerce techniques in the SAARC member countries. www.accessmylibrary.com/premium/0286/0286.

The Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders (Academy) includes a comprehensive eight-module ICTD training curriculum at the national level. In addition APCICT organizes a number of workshops, examples of which being “Funding Options for ICT for Development” and “Pacific Islands Forum Officials e-Government Workshop” in 2009.

APCAEM

Another regional institution of ESCAP is the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (APCAEM). APCAEM was established on 22 May 2002, in Beijing, the host country being P.R. China. It began its operations in 2004. APCAEM is committed to enhancing environmentally sustainable agricultural and food production, and applying green and modern agro-technology. APCAEM is particularly committed to making contributions in achieving Millennium Development Goal 1 (Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger), 3 (Promote gender equality and empower women), 7 (Ensure environmental sustainability) and 8 (Develop a global partnership for development) for the region.

Three cluster programs are agricultural engineering, food chain management, and agro-enterprise development and trade. Member governments include Bangladesh, China, Korea (Democratic People's Republic of), Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Korea (the Republic of), Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

It should be noted that all members and associate members of ESCAP is urged to make a regular annual contribution to the operations of the Center.

APTA⁹

Before the beginning of the process of what has become Asian regionalism, ESCAP initiated a preferential trading arrangement among five countries. This oldest preferential trade agreement between developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region aims at promoting economic development through a continuous process of trade expansion. The Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA), previously known as the Bangkok Agreement (BA), was signed in 1975 by Bangladesh, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka, and was notified to GATT in 1976. It features openness for accession by all developing member countries of ESCAP. Since the inception of the Agreement, the Trade Division of ESCAP has served as the interim secretariat. APTA is the only truly region-wide trading arrangement spanning east, southeast and south Asia, with the potential to extend to other subregions. It is the only operational trade agreement linking China and India, two of the fastest growing markets of the world with a consumer base of 2.4 billion people, as well as other major markets such as the Republic of Korea. APTA was notified to WTO in 2007.

Since this is a typical PTA, APTA aims to liberalize and expand trade through the relaxation of tariff barriers and non-tariff barriers (customs administration, standardization of procedures and formalities relating to mutual trade, adoption of a common tariff nomenclature

⁹ H. Iyer, “The Bangkok Agreement: prospects for trade expansion in the Asia-Pacific Region”, in ESCAP, Bulletin on Asia-Pacific Perspectives 2003/04 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.F.52); R. Ratnayake, “Impact of China's accession to the Bangkok Agreement on intraregional trade flows”, South Asia Economic Journal, vol. 3, No 2, July-December 2003; and I.N. Mukherji, “The Bangkok Agreement: a negative list approach to trade liberalization in Asia and the Pacific”, paper prepared for the nineteenth session of the Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement,

and harmonization of rules of origin and rules related to dumping). Also APTA promotes trade-related economic cooperation. APTA provides tariff and non-tariff concessions between member countries and to give special and differential treatment to the least developed countries. APTA also serves as a platform to link other subregional PTAs.

Up to the present APTA has served as a forum for the exchange of tariff concessions on goods. Preferential treatment levels were increased after two rounds of negotiations, in 1975 and 1990. After China acceded to the APTA in 2001, there was a substantial increase in the concession list. This raised the number of general concessions to 1,558 and special concessions to the least developed countries to 112. A Third Round, implemented from September 2006, saw tariff concessions on a further 4,000 items, while a fourth negotiation round, launched in October 2007, was expected to be concluded in October 2009.

Because of the limited trade among members and a lack of high-level commitment and broad concessions, APTA serves rather as a form of symbolic integration, where two giants, China and India, are among the members, and the effectiveness of this PTA is quite limited. It is a truly regional agreement as it has members from both South and East Asia, but further efforts are needed to make it more attractive. Efforts are now being made to expand its membership to Bhutan, Cambodia, Mongolia, Nepal and Pakistan. Although this is a typical PTA and has a long history, general meetings are held once in every two years. Considering the current speedy regional integration wave, this is too slow as a process.

5. ADB: Origins and Evolution

In the early 1960s Asia was considered to be one of the poorest and predominantly agricultural regions in the world, and needed a financial institution to foster economic growth and cooperation. A resolution at the ESCAP passed in 1963 and the ADB became a reality and opened for operation on 19 December 1966 with 31 members. Because Asia was predominantly an agricultural region, the ADB initially focused on food production and rural development. The ADB started to give technical assistance, loans and bond issues in the late 1960s.

In the 1970s the ADB extended its activities into education and health and then to infrastructure and industry. When Asian economies in the late 1970s succeeded in industrialization and spurred demand for better infrastructure to support further economic growth, the ADB naturally focused on improving roads and providing electricity. Along with these efforts, the ADB established the Asian Development Fund in 1974 to provide concessional lending to its poorest members. In the face of the first oil shock, the ADB shifted its emphasis to energy projects.

Around about this time, the ADB started to draw on the private sector for resources. The ADB continued to support the development of infrastructure especially energy projects in response to the second oil crisis. At the same time, it increased its support for social infrastructure, in areas such as gender, microfinance, the environment, education, urban planning, and health issues.

The ADB thus helped lay the groundwork for regional cooperation. In the 1990s, the ADB began promoting regional cooperation projects on a larger scale, such as the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS). The GMS project is one of the most successful regional cooperation

projects where international financial organizations are involved. The end of the Cold War added several Central Asian countries as members of the ADB, and this fact also helped promote further regional cooperation.

In face of the 1997 Asian Crisis, the ADB approved a \$4 billion emergency loan to the Republic of Korea and established the Asian Currency Crisis Support Facility to accelerate assistance. This is evidence of the positive involvement of the ADB in the field of financial cooperation, which led to the Chiang Mai Initiative and the Asian Bond Market Initiative.

In line with the UN and other leading international organizations, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) became targets to achieve. SARS, HIV/AIDS, the Tsunami disaster, avian influenza, and other problems struck the region successively in the 21st century. Like other international organizations, the ADB also aims to target to eradicate poverty in line with the MDGs.

Since 2008, the ADB has been looking to the future with its Strategy 2020, a long-term strategic framework. This strategy is important in respect to regional integration initiative. According to the Strategy 2020, the ADB will assist its developing member countries (DMCs) to realize growth through integration and closer links with their neighbors. Closer regional coordination will elevate the overall quality of policy and reinforce the abilities of countries and regions to respond more effectively to sudden or unexpected changes in economic circumstances.

With the ADB being an international development finance institution, its mission is to help its developing member countries reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of their people. The ADB's main partners are governments, the private sector, nongovernment organizations, development agencies, community-based organizations, and foundations. The ADB's main instruments are:

- (1) loans
- (2) technical assistance
- (3) grants
- (4) advice
- (5) knowledge.

Under Strategy 2020, the ADB will follow three complementary strategic agendas: inclusive growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration.

Like ESCAP, the ADB covers a wide area of countries including members outside East Asia¹⁰. Taipei, China is a member of ADB. In particular, the inclusion of Taipei, China, in case of ADB, should be seen as very important in view of Institutions of Regionalism.

¹⁰ ADB developing member countries are: Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, People's Republic of, Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, Georgia, Hong Kong, China, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Korea, Republic of, Kyrgyz Republic, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Republic of the, Micronesia, Federated States of, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Pakistan, Palau, Republic of, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Taipei, China, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam

6. ADB: Early Regional Cooperation Initiatives and Current Strategy

Asia and the Pacific region's recent past growth has been dependent on its promotion of foreign direct investment and export orientation. For this to be achieved, de facto economic integration has been well-developed. As the ADB's 2008 study, *Emerging Asian Regionalism*, persuasively argues that Asia has been observing a more spontaneous and market driven form of regional integration.

Waves of regionalism have been observed the world over. In contrast to the "hard" economic integration of the EU and NAFTA, Asia experienced a different type of economic integration. It involved sub-regional or localized economic cooperation and integration called "growth triangles (GTs)." The term GT became popular after Goh Chok Tong of former Singapore Prime Minister used it in reference to Singapore-Johor-Riau (set up from December 1989) "SIJORI GT." Growth Triangle¹¹ is a cooperation scheme among three or more countries. Each country has a particular endowment of various factors of production, i.e., land, labor, capital, and management. If those endowments are economically complementary among countries, it should generate mutual advantages in external trade and investment. Growth triangles offer economies of scale, widen potential markets, and may act as buffer against recession. Southeast Asian examples of early developments in this field are Singapore-Johor-Riau, and Indonesia-Malaysia-Singapore (1994).

These GTs are specific to Asia, and aim at fostering complementary relationships among neighboring areas. The process has an Asian character, and involves slow, organic development of relationships, often between diverse participants.

The ADB has done much pioneering work in the area of regional cooperation and integration. The concept of Growth Triangles is also such a product and it has led to several later initiatives such as IMT-GT. One of the most effective of these initiatives has been GMS.

ADB's More Recent Regional Cooperation and Strategy¹²

In order to discuss more recent ADB's endeavor for regional integration, we need to mention a structural shift in the secretariat. Since Haruhiko Kuroda's appointment as ADB President on November 2004, the ADB has moved much more aggressively in supporting Regional Cooperation and Integration (RCI) initiatives.

Established in 1999, the Regional Economic Monitoring Unit (REMU) seeks to help DMCs to realize the benefits of global financial integration, while at the same time minimizing negative effects. REMU also acted as the secretariat for the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers Process. Later, it received a broader mandate and more staff, and was renamed the Office of Regional Economic Integration (OREI).

OREI's responsibilities include monitoring economic policies and financial architecture issues from a regional and subregional standpoint. It also disseminates results and information to encourage prudent economic management. OREI helps increase economic monitoring capacity at the regional and subregional levels, by providing technical assistance and advisory

¹¹ Hiroshi Kakazu "Growth Triangles in ASEAN: A New Approach to Regional Cooperation," GSID, Nagoya University GSID APEC Discussion Paper Series No. 9, 1997.

¹² Comments of Giovanni Campanelli on the earlier draft.

services. OREI improves relations between the ADB and other international financial institutions, regional and subregional bodies, and gives inputs to meetings and discussions. It also supports the ASEAN Surveillance Process, and is home to the Asia Regional Integration Center.

The new RCI Strategy was created in 2006, introducing four ADB pillars on RCI. They are infrastructure, trade and investment, money and finance, and regional public goods. RCI is playing a central role to help achieve the ADB's goal of poverty reduction in Asia and the Pacific.

For each pillar, the following departments are assigned responsibility; Regional Departments responsible for regional infrastructure projects, OREI for trade and investment and money and finance; the Regional Sustainable and Development Department is responsible for regional public goods. A number of financial schemes have been set up. One of these is an RCI fund which draws on internal sources. A community of practice on RCI for the staff of the ADB was established, and OREI was given a coordinating role on OREI. Individual member countries of the ADB, including the PRC, provided extra funding focused on RCI. In this way, the ADB itself, as well its member countries, focus on RCI.

The ADB's contribution also can be found in its timely study series. An ADB flagship study on Emerging Asian Regionalism was completed in 2008, a second on Infrastructure for a Seamless Asia in 2009, and an ongoing study on Institutions for Regionalism is due for completion in 2010. These three volumes will lead to a greater common understanding on where we are with Asian regionalism, and how we should proceed from here.

7. ADB: Offspring Institutions

The ADB, thus far, has created a number of offspring institutions for regionalism. They address various areas, such as water, air, environment, and finance. Their members include governments, special purpose organizations, private sectors, cities, and others, depending upon the nature of cooperation. Examples of these offspring institutions include:

- Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO)
- Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (CAI-Asia)
- ABMI
- CAREC Institute
- Association of Credit Rating Agencies in Asia (ACRAA)
- Asia Forest Partnership (APF)
- Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (APPCDC)

Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO)

Integrating the management of water resources was discussed at length at a succession of meetings and conferences at regional and global levels, including World Water Forums, held in 1997, 2000, and 2003. These fora advocated an approach termed Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

Recognizing the need for networking and capacity building in the implementation of IWRM, the Water Resources Development Public Corporation of Japan (recently reconstituted as the Japan Water Agency), the ADB, and the Asian Development Bank Institute decided at the 3rd World Water Forum in March 2003 in Kyoto, Japan, to collaborate in launching a Network of NARBO.

The goal of NARBO is naturally to help achieve IWRM in river basins throughout Asia. NARBO promotes IWRM and improves water governance, through training and exchange of information and experiences among RBOs and other organizations¹³.

As of February 2008, 65 organizations had already joined as members of NARBO. Members consist of 22 River Basin Organizations (RBO), 17 Government Organizations (GOV), 17 Regional Knowledge Partners (RKP), eight Inter-Regional Knowledge Partners (IRKP), and one Development Cooperation Agency (DCA). The countries involved are Indonesia, Korea, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Cambodia, and Southeast Asia as a regional center. Thus, membership covers quite a large area.

Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (CAI-Asia)¹⁴

Established in 2001, CAI-Asia aims to promote and demonstrate innovations to improve air qualities in cities across Asia, by forming partnerships and drawing on the broad experience of the ADB, the World Bank and USAID. Similar initiatives have been established in other regions, namely CAI-LAC in Latin America, and CAI-SSA in Sub-Saharan Africa.

CAI-Asia works to foster knowledge and capacity-building among stakeholders, developing policies and implementing policies to improve air quality. It also takes into account related issues, included health, climate change, energy and transport issues.

Since 2007, this multi-stakeholder initiative consists of three parts:

- CAI-Asia Center, a regional, Manila-based non-profit organization that is the implementing arm of CAI-Asia
- CAI-Asia Partnership, a United Nations Type II partnership, with over 165 members representing cities, governments, academia, NGOs, private sector, and development agencies
- Country Networks in China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Viet Nam

Asian Bond Market Initiative (ABMI)^{15,16}

ABMI was originally proposed by Japan under the framework of ASEAN Plus 3 in 2002 and since then significant progress has been made. This is because it was recognized that it is desirable to develop efficient and liquid bond markets in the region for further economic development in Asia. In many countries in the region although savings rates are relatively high, quite a large amount of savings remain underutilized. How to mobilize unused financial resources for various productive investments is one of the concerns. Heavy reliance on banking channels alone in the past contributed to the Asian Financial crisis, and it was considered necessary to develop a more sound, diversified and liquid capital markets. While globalization has increased international money flows, in Asia, many developing countries have yet to deregulate capital

¹³ NARBO Charter (Revised: February 2008) and Action Plan 2008-2009

¹⁴ The CAI-Asia Strategy 2009-2012 summarizes how the CAI-Asia Partnership, Center and Country Networks will champion AQM within this broader context. The Business Plan 2009-2011 contains the Center's specific organizational development goals and describes activities under the Air Quality Program and Transport Program.

¹⁵ <http://www.adb.org/Documents/Speeches/2009/ms2009002.asp>

¹⁶ Bindu N. Lohani "The 2008 Global Financial Crisis-What it Means for Developing Asia", Keynote Speech, Asian Development Bank, 2009.

account transactions, and market infrastructure and governance remains weak in many places. It was this context that led the ABMI being promoted, with encouragement being received from APEC Foreign Ministers, who emphasized the importance of developing a regional bond market.

The ABMI roadmap helps increase issuance and demand for local currency bonds, and should improve the regulatory framework and market infrastructure. Asia should continue to develop deep, diversified, and well-functioning local-currency bond markets drawing on the lessons from the 1997/98 Asian financial crisis.

Association of Credit Rating Agencies in Asia (ACRAA)

The ADB also has been working closely with the Association of Credit Rating Agencies in Asia (ACRAA) in building the capacity of domestic rating agencies and in promoting adoption of best practices and common standards across Asia.

ACRAA was organized on 14 September 2001 at ADB by 15 Asian credit rating agencies from 13 countries. As of May 1, 2007, membership has increased to 25 members from 14 countries. The objectives of the ACRAA are the provision of market information and credit ratings throughout the region, in order to promote the development of cross-border investment and bond markets in Asia. The participating agencies are from Bahrain, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, China, Philippines, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Taipei, Japan, Thailand, Korea, and Uzbekistan.

CAREC Institute¹⁷

Two of the youngest ADB offspring institutes are the CAREC Partnership Forum and the CAREC Business Forum, which grew out of a work plan for the CAREC Institute endorsed at the November 2008 Ministerial Conference. The priorities of the plan include leadership development initiatives for senior officials, training for the support of CAREC sector committees, research on structural change and economic diversification, and the funding of small projects by researchers in the region. The inaugural CAREC Partnership Forum, this year, focused on transport and trade facilitation, while the CAREC Business Forum met for the first time in Urumqi.

Although the ADB is the lead institution and has devoted substantial resources to its Secretariat role, the presence of other major multilateral institutions is valuable, not only in bringing in potential donors (in contrast to SPECA's impecunious situation) but also in alleviating fears of domination by an outside body.

8. Subregional Programs¹⁸

In Asia the end of the Cold War opened the border between contiguous areas for trade and investment. This led to the flourishing of a new type of regional cooperation and integration. Growth Triangles try to exploit complementarities in factor endowments of three or more countries and this new type of regional cooperation is market-driven, peripheral-oriented, and private sector-led regional cooperation.

¹⁷ Richard Pomfret "Regional Institutions in Central Asia: Evolving Models" 2009.

¹⁸ Hiroshi Kakazu, "Growth Triangles in Asia A New Approach to Regional Cooperation" GSID Nagoya University APEC Discussion Paper Series, pp.1-16, March 1997.

Asia is unique. The driving forces behind rapid growth of the region lie in many aspects. One such is the region's market-oriented growth policy with sound and effective macroeconomic policies. A coordinated export drive was supported by directed credit, investment, and tax policies. The complementary nature of the region made it easier for cooperation. Japan, the NIEs and ASEAN formulated and succeeded in a flying geese pattern of development. Another important aspect has been the economic power of Chinese merchants at home and abroad for this development.

As Table 1 shows, there are 10 major ongoing regional and subregional cooperation initiatives in Asia. The ADB's involvement is extensive and in particular GMS is the most successful case, and offers lessons for the succeeding frameworks, like CAREC. BIMP-EAGA is also well-known for its extensive technical assistance¹⁹. Although the ADB's involvement is most intense and pervasive in the GMS project, it has provided support to eight projects, most of those focused on infrastructure development. These were initiated during the early 1990s, when the first wave of regional cooperation became significant in Asia.

¹⁹ As far as infrastructure developments are concerned, there were 17 loans in all and more than \$3.1 billion worth of investments in these subregions: 14 loans and more than \$2.83 billion went to GMS, and the remaining 3 loans and \$273.3 in investments to CAREC.

Table 1 Ten Major Regional/Subregional Cooperation Projects in Asia

Subregional Cooperation Initiative	Start	Participating Countries	ADB Support
GMS	1992	Viet Nam, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, and PRC (Yunnan Province)	One of the most successful models of regional cooperation in Asia
CAREC	1997	PRC, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan	The most promising and quick development program, after GMS
SASEC	1997	Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal	TA
IMT-GT	1994	Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand Growth Triangle	Extensive TA Support from ADB
BIMP-EAGA	1994	Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area	Extensive TA Support from ADB
PRC-Mongolia	2000	PRC and Mongolia	One TA Project
Pacific DMCs	N.A.	ADB's promotion of regional cooperation has focused on fisheries, aidline and airspace management, regional stock exchanges, public sector management, and governance and money laundering	
BMSTEC	1997	Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand	TA
Tuman River Area Development Program	1995	PRC, DPRK, Mongolia, Russia, and Republic of Korea	Not involved
New Silk Road Development Project	1995		Not involved

ASEAN = Association of Southeast Asian Nations; BMSTEC = Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand Economic Cooperation; BIMP-EAGA = Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Myanmar-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area; CAREC = Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation; DMC = developing member country; GMS = Greater Mekong Subregion; DPRK = Democratic People's Republic of Korea; IMT-GT = Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand Growth Triangle; Lao PDR = Lao People's Democratic Republic; PRC = People's Republic of China; SASEC = South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation.

Source: Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Unlike the trading bloc, the growth triangle approach involves only contiguous parts of countries. Thus, politico-economic risks associated with regional integration will be localized or minimized when it fails.

In terms of the speed of establishment, GTs can be established at a much lower cost and in a shorter period of time. The SIJORI GT became a model for AFTA. The GT approach was particularly useful to facilitate the transition of centrally planned economies to market economies, such as Myanmar, Lao PDR, Vietnam, and Cambodia in the Mekong River Basin GT. While FTAs focus on the expansion and liberalization of the internal market of its member countries, GTs are motivated by foreign direct investment and exports for which the size of the regional market is less important than the openness of the global trading system.

In this section we will briefly discuss selected GTs and fully by far the largest GT, GMS.

South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC)²⁰

SAARC, established in 1985 and including seven developing countries, was the first regional cooperation initiative in South Asia. An eighth member, Afghanistan, was accepted in 2005, subject to the fulfillment of certain requirements. BIMSTEC became the second regional cooperation initiative; the Economic Cooperation Organization was the third. These regional cooperation schemes, however, made slow progress because of the diversity of the member countries' economic, social, geographic, cultural, and political characteristics. Political tensions between some member countries also deterred the realization of the objectives of cooperation.

Since 1997, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal (BBIN) have cooperated together through the South Asia Growth Quadrangle (SAGQ). In that year, SAARC endorsed the SAGQ as a subregional initiative focusing on project implementation. It covers the following sectors: transportation and communication, energy, trade and investment facilitation and promotion, the environment, and the utilization of natural resource endowments. Since 2001, the ADB helps implement SAGQ through the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) initiative. SASEC's six priorities are (i) transport; (ii) trade, investment, and private sector cooperation; (iii) tourism; (iv) energy and power; (v) environment; and (vi) ICT.

The ADB established a Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund (RCIF) and an Investment Climate Facilitation Fund (ICFF) under its Regional Cooperation and Integration Financing Partnership Facility to provide financial and technical assistance for the implementation of sub-regional projects. One important project that has been funded in this way is the SASEC Information Highway Project.

Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines—East ASEAN Growth Area (BIM-EAGA) and Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT)

Until 1994, the Philippines did not participate in any GT scheme with other ASEAN countries. In that year, President Ramos sought to address this issue by developing BIMP-EAGA. The four EAGA governments agreed to identify opportunities and potentials for, as well as constraints to, regional economic cooperation and development in the region. Here, again, the ADB played an important role as a catalyst in facilitating meetings and conducting feasibility

²⁰ Sanjaya Baru "Early Steps towards Regionalism in South Asia: SAARC and Other Arrangements", 2009.

studies by providing technical assistance. BIMP-EAGA was formally launched in 1994 as a key strategy of the participating governments to address the social and economic needs of their less-developed and more remote territories.

The EAGA includes Brunei Darussalam (B-EAGA); East Kalimantan, West Kalimantan, North Sulawesi and Irian Java (I-EAGA); Sabah, Sarawak, and Labuan in Malaysia (M-EAGA); and Mindanao and Palawan in the Philippines (P-EAGA). With the exception of Brunei, these subregions are among the least developed of the participating countries. Therefore, national as well as regional governments have common interests in participating in the EAGA scheme, namely to achieve the goals of balanced regional development and employment and income creation.

The success of the EAGA depends largely on present and future resource complementarities which provide comparative cost advantages in the region. The area is abundant with natural resources in relative as well as absolute terms, including vast and rich agricultural land (Mindanao), tropical forests (Sabah, Sarawak, North Sulawesi, West Kalimantan, Palawan), and oil, gas and coal (Brunei, Sabah, Sarawak, Kalimantan). The initiative covers nearly 55 million people.

IMT-GT, formed in 1993, spans almost the entire island of Sumatra in Indonesia, eight provinces in Southern Thailand, and seven states in peninsular Malaysia—with a total population of almost 60 million.

Both initiatives have focused on promoting trade, investment, and tourism with an emphasis on private-sector led growth. This strategy has resulted in improved air links, lower trade barriers, more cross-border investment, and increased mobility.

After early cooperation gains, both IMT-GT and BIMP-EAGA initiatives suffered from the region-wide financial crisis in 1997 and are now building capacity for sustainable development and growth in the region. After 2001, as economic growth returned to the region, regional leaders have supported reviving, revitalizing, and repositioning these subregional cooperation initiatives. Both BIMP-EAGA and IMT-GT witnessed increased links and connectivity in tourism and investment.

As the top-level decision making forum, the first EAGA Summit was held in Bali Indonesia, in October 2003. It signaled the strong desire of the political leadership to intervene and direct economic cooperation.

At the 2nd EAGA Summit held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in December 2005, the leaders endorsed the implementation of the medium-term BIMPEAGA Road map to Development (2006–2010), which gave EAGA further impetus to address the subregion's development concerns.

Major activities of the BIMP-EAGA development road map are as follows:

- promoting intra- and extra-EAGA trade, tourism, and investment
- jointly managing natural resources for sustainable development
- jointly planning and implementing infrastructure support for economic integration
- strengthening subregional institutions and mechanisms.

In response to a request made during the 1st IMT-GT Leaders' Summit in Kuala Lumpur in December 2005, a road map for IMT-GT was developed in 2006. The road map was endorsed during the 2nd IMT-GT Leaders' Summit in Cebu, Philippines, on 12 January 2007.

There are five parts to the roadmap:

- regional connectivity through infrastructure development;
- trade and investment promotion;
- human resource development and environment and natural resource management;
- sectoral growth in agriculture, agro-industry, and tourism; and
- institutional capacity for coordination and monitoring.

With respect to infrastructure, the road map accords high priority to the development of the IMT-GT Connectivity Corridor. The four priority corridors identified are:

- Extended Songkhla–Penang–Medan Economic Corridor,
- Straits of Melaka Economic Corridor covering the western coastal belt of southern Thailand and Peninsular Malaysia,
- Banda Aceh–Medan–Pekanbaru–Palembang Economic Corridor, and
- Dumai–Melaka Economic Corridor.

Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC)²¹

CAREC was formed under the auspices of the ADB in the late 1990s for the purpose of supporting and promoting economic cooperation in Central Asia. The member countries include Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, PRC, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. The ADB, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the IMF, the Islamic Development Bank, UNDP, and the World Bank also participate. The ADB hosts the Secretariat. According to Pomfret, "CAREC operates by consensus and in the early 2000s visible achievements were minor, but meetings promoted a process of confidence-building and networking among officials who had rarely spoken to their counterparts in other countries. By 2005-6 CAREC had established its credentials as an infrastructure institution and began to identify projects, especially in transport and trade facilitation; the explicitly regional focus of the CAREC corridors identified in 2007-8 was accepted by the member countries and guided ADB funding in the region."

The energy sector has been identified as one of the four priority areas for cooperation in the integrated infrastructure development of Central Asia. The program's main objective is to support the efficient and rational use of energy and water. Five member countries are united by their dependence on the two great rivers, the Amu Darya and Sir Darya, that flow into the Aral Sea. The major conflict is between the poor upstream countries, Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic, who wish to use the water for hydropower, and the three downstream countries which are dependent on water flows for their irrigated agriculture. The five countries are founding members of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS), but that institutional framework has yet to provide a useful forum for finding a sustainable solution. Following this basic approach, the main focus has been on key investment projects such as the improvement of power and gas transmission.

²¹ Richard Pomfret "Regional Institutions in Central Asia: Evolving Models" 2009.

Vital transport issues facing CAREC countries need to be addressed. These include: (i) inefficient cross-border movement and transit of people and goods due to bureaucratic red tape and poorly equipped border posts, (ii) the lack of unified transport regulations among CAREC countries, (iii) an inadequate regional transport network, (iv) the lack of competition in railways due to the monopolistic nature of sub-sectors, (v) limited institutional support and capacity, and (vi) the lack of a regional approach to civil aviation, including a common aviation policy and liberalization prospects across the region. Some progress in regional cooperation in the transport sector is evident.

The expansion of both transport and energy infrastructure can therefore make Central Asia an important regional market for the trading, transport, and sale of energy.

The Central Asian governments, with the assistance of donor institutions like the ADB, have assigned a high priority to the rehabilitation and improvement of an interconnected electric power system in the region.

Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)

The GMS program started in 1992 with support from the ADB and other donors to promote development through closer economic linkages. Much of the GMS region is rural in nature and reliant on subsistence agriculture. In order to manage the transition from central planning to market-oriented economies, large amounts of financial and intellectual resources are required. The program has so far been successful in achieving many of its goals: sustained economic growth, the development of regional institutions, and increasing competitiveness among member countries.

GMS countries have also developed a sense of community and the capacity for collective action for the common good and purpose. A 10-year strategic framework for the GMS program was formulated with assistance from the ADB in 2001. This strategic framework was endorsed by the six GMS leaders in a summit held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in November 2002.

The framework envisions a well-integrated and prosperous Mekong subregion that is free of poverty and committed to protecting the environment. The five development goals identified in achieving the GMS vision are:

- strengthening infrastructure linkages through a multi-sectoral approach
- facilitating cross-border trade and investment
- enhancing private sector participation in development and improving its competitiveness
- developing human resources and skill competencies
- protecting the environment and promoting the sustainable use of the subregion's shared natural resources.

GMS used a three-pronged strategy of the '3 Cs': enhancing connectivity, increasing competitiveness and developing a sense of community. The first GMS ministerial plan was drawn up in 2004, and has been updated since then, to guide the implementation of priority initiatives.

In GMS, the development of economic corridors is an important approach to achieving the 3 Cs and involves concentrating infrastructure investments in cross-border geographic areas to maximize production, trade, and other development opportunities in this area.

Three priority corridors are now being developed: the East–West Economic Corridor, the North–South Economic Corridor, and the Southern Economic Corridor. In support of the GMS program's focus on providing infrastructure in the region, the GMS Cross-Border Transport Agreement (CBTA) was adopted to complement the other initiatives in accelerating economic cooperation. CBTA is a compact and comprehensive multilateral instrument that covers all the relevant aspects of cross-border transport facilitation in one document. These include: (i) single-stop or single-window customs inspections; (ii) cross-border movement of persons (i.e. visas for persons engaged in transport operations); (iii) transit traffic regimes, including exemptions from physical customs inspection, bond deposit, escort, and agriculture and veterinary inspection; (iv) requirements for road vehicles to be eligible for use in cross-border traffic; (v) exchange of commercial traffic rights; and (vi) infrastructure, including road and bridge design standards, road signs, and signals.

9. Conclusion

The Asian Crisis in 1997 had a severe impact on the region, which led to the creation of new dimensions of economic cooperation. The crisis provided the impetus for significant reforms and bold changes. The current global financial turmoil has shaken confidence in financial systems worldwide and has been affecting the region seriously because a slowing of export demand from other regions. In spite of this, Asia and the Pacific remains the most dynamic region in the world. The recent wave of regionalism is still strong, and new initiatives continue to emerge.

Asia has seen a more spontaneous, market driven regional integration than other regions, with private enterprise playing a leading role. Alongside this, both ESCAP and the ADB have also been playing an important role in facilitating and driving regionalism. As discussed above, ESCAP initiated the Asian Highway Project, providing a cross-country road network for the whole region. This in turn links countries together for trade and investment. The ADB has provided infrastructure necessary for economic integration to happen, and has created new concepts and initiated the GMS cooperation scheme. With ESCAP and the ADB's leadership and their synergy effects, regional public goods have been improved in this region, in such areas as environmental protection, clean energy, natural disaster responses, and infrastructure. Formal agreements take quite a long time to be completed and involve many complicated dimensions. A quicker and more practical alternative is cross-border cooperation, where many local and central governments can become involved and the costs of failure are smaller. There are a number of examples of such sub-regional cooperation schemes turning out to be effective, such as the GMS program, which was initiated and developed by the ADB. Both ESCAP and the ADB can function as catalysts and synergy organizations what individual countries cannot do and help the institutionalization of regional cooperation by providing ideas and coordination, and by disseminating information.

ESCAP and the ADB have been contributing greatly to the promotion of investment and trade in the region in a variety of ways. Regional integration needs both software and hardware. Software includes training for simpler customs procedures, regional networks to cut red tape in international trade, and other forms of technical assistance. Inefficient and poor trade

infrastructure can act as a barrier to trade. ESCAP has been providing, among other things, training in e-Government, a transport education network, ICT training courses, simpler customs procedures, and a regional network to cut red tape in international trade. The ADB provides technical assistance along the same lines. Both ESCAP and the ADB are in one of the best positions to perform these activities because of ample experiences and internationally coordinating capacities inside organizations and networks. These activities prepare the ground for further economic integration of the sort described in the above sections.

Trade facilitation measures are important in enhancing the gains from trade liberalization. Individual economies often lack the capacity and the political will to provide and finance regional public goods. This is particularly true among lower-income Asian economies. This is because sound infrastructure development allows the integration and expansion of markets, enabling people to increasingly carry out mutually beneficial trades. Coordinated efforts at the regional level are needed to address this gap. In this respect, ESCAP and the ADB have an important role to play. In order to spread development from the center of business activities to the periphery, sound infrastructure is essential. We can consider this an example of a hardware requirement for wider economic integration. The most important early contribution in this regard was the Asian Highway, started in 1959. Another second example is the Trans-Asian Railway, built in the 1960s. These two projects, initiated by ESCAP, have played a pivotal role in developing regional transport. The Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development was also created by ESCAP, in 1992. The ADB has provided a number of infrastructure projects. The ADB has provided infrastructure and a more general framework, i.e., sub-regional cooperation and offspring object specific institutions. All ADB-supported subregional activities such as the IMT-GT, GMS, BIMP-EAGA, CAREC, SASEC, and ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers Meeting, as well as offspring institutions like CMI and ABMI, are examples of the contribution the ADB has made. As such, it will be unlikely that ADB will setup an FTA (like ESCAP did with APTA) and try to convince its member countries to be part of it. When in the past, the ADB tried to promote participation in initiatives like the ACU, several ADB member countries opposed such a move mainly on the ground that the institution should not create its own demand for projects.

All multilateral financial organizations that have deep involvement in regional and subregional cooperation projects, such as the ADB, World Bank, and UNDP, adopt the bottom up approach. For any meaningful regional free trade arrangement the provision of regional public goods like infrastructure development is needed, especially in the early stages. Some critical comments on these developments may be in order. Investment portfolios should include less profitable projects and these to be supported by highly profitable projects in order to support more for lower-income countries. Cooperation among other international organizations together, with leading forums such as APEC, should be further promoted. This issue is a matter of degrees, but since the ADB and ESCAP play a synergy and catalyst role, more commitment from local and central governments and involvement of private sector might be desired.

ESCAP and the ADB can function as organizations to do what individual countries cannot do, or what remains in short supply, and help the institutionalization of regional cooperation by providing coordination, information gathering and dissemination, dispute settlement and so forth. In the past both organizations have led the region in many aspects of economic cooperation.

Any move from the status quo create winners and losers. An FTA is no exception. If the speed of adjustment from losing industries to winning industries is short, the cost of a new FTA becomes minimum. In general, welfare gains cannot be easily shifted to compensate the losers, particularly in lower-income member countries. In this respect, some provisions should be prepared. In the past, both ESCAP and the ADB provided assistance for natural disasters, SARS, HIV/AIDS, and similar events.

For example, after the 2005 Asian tsunami, an agreement was signed on 26 September 2005 between Thailand and ESCAP to create a regional trust fund to support tsunami early warning arrangements. Thailand has contributed ten million USD to this fund. The ADB also has a number of Trust Fund projects. Thus, one way to mitigate the effects on the 'losers' among lower-income member countries is to set up trust funds, and both ESCAP and the ADB use these funds for training and other necessary measures to help support losers for a limited period of time, and promote further RCI.

Since many Subregional Cooperation Schemes have been successfully implemented, it is natural to consider that all schemes could be integrated and to be developed into a region-wide economic cooperation institution. With the region being so diverse and seeing regionalization based on spontaneous integration, it may be difficult to resolve many conflicting issues by setting up one umbrella integration scheme. Difficult and time-consuming negotiations, consultations, and concessions would be required. As APEC advocates Open Regionalism and subregional cooperation schemes are quick, practical and open, bringing integration projects together gradually might be a practical future strategy. As ACU fails, leadership should be exercised at the level of member countries and both ESCAP and the ADB are expected to play roles in coordination, synergy, idea-setting, and ground soft and hard work - in a word, as a facilitator for the future integration. The experience and execution of many offspring institutions for different geographical areas and different specific objectives should lead to a practical step by step approach to make the transition rather smooth. As Severino²² writes, "For regional institutionalisation to go beyond these would require a deeper and firmer commitment to regionalism on the part of Southeast Asia's policy makers.... In order to ensure that the cycle is virtuous rather than vicious, institutions ought to be strengthened where they are necessary and helpful, as well as possible and realistic, for promoting cooperation and integration but short of building an overarching supranational structure, which would be rejected by the states involved. The process will probably be not only gradual but long."

²² Rodolfo C. Severino "Regional institutions in Southeast Asia: The First Movers and their Challenges", 2009.

United Nations Economics and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Basic Information	Name	United Nations Economics and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
	Acronym	UNESCAP
	Year Founded	1947
	Location	Bangkok, Thailand
	President	Noeleen Heyzer
	Who initiated	UN
	Cooperation area	comprehensive (focus area as follows ; Environment and Development, Information and Communication Technology and Disaster Reduction, Macroeconomic Policy and Development, Social Development, Statistics, Trade and Investment, Transport and Development of Island Countries and Territories.
	Binding	No
Membership	Total Number	62 government (53 are member state and 9 are associate member.)
History	origins	Established in 1947 in Shanghai, China, as the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) to assist in post-war economic reconstruction, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific moved its headquarters to Bangkok in January 1949. The ultimate challenge lies in bringing the region's 680 million poor into the economic mainstream, enabling everybody to achieve a better standard of life as envisaged in the Charter of the United Nations.
Vision and Aspiration	Aim and Objectives	Established in 1947 with its headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand, ESCAP seeks to overcome some of the region's greatest challenges. The overall objective of ESCAP is to promote inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in the Asia-Pacific region, with priority accorded to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. During the biennium 2008-2009, ESCAP emphasizes strengthening institutional capacities to serve the rights of the people of the region and address their aspirations and needs. ESCAP pursues this objective by carrying out work, in close cooperation with other United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations in the region. It carries out work in the following areas: Poverty and development, Statistics, Subregional activities for development, Trade and Investment, Transport and tourism, Environment and sustainable development, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction and Social Development. Also ESCAP focuses on issues that are most effectively addressed through regional cooperation, including: Issues that all or a group of
	partner	government, NGO, other Asian regional institutions. ??
	instruments	Research, Statistics, and Making Policy. ??

Asian Development Bank

Basic Information	Name	Asian Development Bank
	Acronym	ADB
	Year Founded	1966
	Location	Manila, Philippines
	President	Haruhiko Kuroda
	Who initiated	ESCAP
	Cooperation area	comprehensive
	Binding	no
Membership	Total Number	67countries and region (48 are from within the Asia and Pacific region / 19 are outside)
History	origins	ADB was conceived amid the postwar rehabilitation and reconstruction of the early 1960s. The vision was of a financial institution that would be Asian in character and foster economic growth and cooperation in the region - then one of the poorest in the world.A resolution passed at the first Ministerial Conference on Asian Economic Cooperation held by the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East in 1963 set that vision on the way to becoming reality.The Philippines capital of Manila was chosen to host the new institution - the Asian Development Bank - which opened on 19 December 1966, with 31 members to serve a predominantly agricultural region. Takeshi Watanabe was the first President.For the rest of the 1960s, ADB focused much of its assistance on food production and rural development. The next three years saw ADB's first technical assistance, loans (including a first on concessional terms in 1969) and bond issue (in Germany).
Vision and Aspiration	Aim and Objectives	ADB is an international development finance institution whose mission is to help its developing member countries reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of their people.
	partner	ADB's main partners are governments, the private sector, nongovernment organizations, development agencies, community-based organizations, and foundations.
	instruments	ADB's main instruments (1)comprise loans, (2)technical assistance, (3)grants, (4)advice, and (5) knowledge.
	strategy 2020	Under Strategy 2020, a long-term strategic framework adopted in 2008, ADB will follow three complementary strategic agendas: inclusive growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration.

Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement

Basic Information	Name	Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement
	Acronym	APTA
	Year Founded	1975
	Location	ESCAP, Bangkok
	President	no
	Who initiated	UNESCAP
	Cooperation area	trade and investment
	Binding	yes
Membership	Total Number	6 countries (Bangladesh, China, India, Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Sri Lanka)
History	origins	The Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA), previously named the Bangkok Agreement, signed in 1975 as an initiative of ESCAP, is a preferential tariff arrangement that aims at promoting intra-regional trade through exchange of mutually agreed concessions by member countries.
Vision and Aspiration	Aim and Objectives	The objectives of the Bangkok Agreement are to promote Economic Development through a continuous process of trade expansion among the developing member countries of ESCAP and to further enhance international economic cooperation through the adoption of mutually beneficial trade liberalization measures consistent with their respective present and future development and trade needs.

Profile of institution
Asia Forest Partnership

Basic Information	Name	United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
	Acronym	UNSIAP
	Year Founded	2002
	Secretariat	Bogor, Indonesia; CIFOR(The Center for International Forestry Research)'s office
	URL	http://www.asiaforests.org/index.php
	cooperation area	sustainable forest management
Partnership	overview	The Asia Forest Partnership (AFP) was launched in August 2002 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) as a Type II partnership for sustainable development. The common aim of these partnerships is the implementation of sustainable development based on the Rio Declaration principles and the values expressed in the Millennium Declaration. As a partnership forum, AFP set itself the task of information sharing, dialogue and joint action to promote sustainable forest management. The initial duration of AFP was set at five years from 2002 to 2007. At the 7th Meeting of the Asia Forest Partnership, November 12-14, 2007, Yokohama, Japan, Partners agreed to an eight year second phase (2008-2015).
	total number	42
Objectives and Functions	members	<p>Governments: 1. Australia 2. Cambodia 3. China 4. European Union 5. Finland 6. France 7. Indonesia 8. India 9. Japan 10. Netherlands 11. Nepal 12. Republic of Korea 13. Malaysia 14. Philippines 15. Switzerland 16. Thailand 17. United Kingdom 18. United States of America 19. Vietnam 20. Forestry Services of South Sumatra Province, Indonesia.</p> <p>Intergovernmental Organizations: 1. Asian Development Bank (ADB) 2. Asian Productivity Organization (APO) 3. Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) 4. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) 5. International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) 6. United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat 7. United Nations University (UNU) 8. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)</p> <p>Other Organizations: 1. Gajahmada University 2. Global Environmental Forum (GEF) 3. Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) 4. Pacifico Bamboo Resources (PBR) 5. PNG Ecoforestry Forum Inc. 6. University of Agriculture of Pakistan 7. Rare 8. Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and the Pacific(RECOFTC) 9. South Asia Cooperative Environmental Programme (SACEP) 10. Sumatra Rainforest Institute (SRI) 11. The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) 12. Tropenbos International Indonesia Program 13. TropBio Carbon Exchange Sdn Bhd 14. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) 15. WWF Indonesia 16. World Resource Institute (WRI) 17. Yogyakarta School of Environmental Engineering.</p>
	key themes and emerging issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forest products and ecosystem services, including mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, watershed and land resource protection, and conserving biological diversity; and Combating illegal logging and associated trade. • Protecting and enhancing the livelihoods, rights, security and well-being of forest-dependent people; Improving forest-related governance; Strengthening institutions and capacities for sustainable forest management; and Securing and diversifying finance for conservation and sustainable use of forest resources.
Objectives and Functions	goal	The goal of AFP is to: Promote cooperation and catalyze action among governments, civil society and business to achieve sustainable forest management in Asia and the Pacific and thereby maintain and enhance the provision of forest products and ecosystem services, and their contribution to human well-being.
	functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Multistakeholder dialogue to support progress on key themes and emerging issues; *Partners' engagement with and inputs to relevant national, regional and global institutions and processes; *Increased synergy among existing projects, programs and initiatives; *Opportunities for Partners to develop collaborative initiatives; and *Information sharing among Partners concerning relevant ongoing and planned projects, programs, and policies.

Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area

Basic Information	Name	Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area
	Acronym	BIMP-EAGA
	Year Founded	1994
	cooperation area	TRADE, INVESTMENTS, and TOURISM
	overview	<p>In 1992, then President Fidel V. Ramos of the Philippines proposed the expansion of economic cooperation in the border areas with Indonesia and Malaysia and with Brunei Darussalam in a major economic and diplomatic initiative in the ASEAN. The leaders of Brunei, Indonesia, and Malaysia favorably received this Philippine initiative that eventually led to the creation of a subregional growth area named the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area or BIMP-EAGA. BIMP-EAGA was formally launched on March 24, 1994 in Davao City in Mindanao, Philippines. The BIMP-EAGA (or simply EAGA) stands for the Brunei Darussalam Indonesia Malaysia the Philippines - East ASEAN Growth Area. It is Asia's largest regional grouping, spanning territories of four ASEAN countries. Some point out that it may also be the fastest growing, in light of its achievements in only four years.</p> <p>EAGA comprises the entire sultanate of Brunei Darussalam; 10 provinces in the Indonesian islands of Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Maluku, and Irian Jaya; Sabah, Sarawak, and Labuan in Malaysia; and Mindanao and Palawan in the Philippines. Its land area of roughly 1.54 million square kilometers is home to about 45.6 million people (1996).</p> <p>In today's era of economic cooperation and globalisation, EAGA is consistent with economic policies and specific agreements between members of ASEAN in the implementation of its Free Trade Area (AFTA), and economists advise that EAGA could even be the testing ground for AFTA'sCEPT. The functionality of this growth area likewise falls squarely within the frameworks of APEC and the much larger WTO.</p> <p>While the foregoing scenario is perceivably of political nature, it must be emphasised that EAGA is not a government program, but rather a joint public-private sector mechanism for bringing investment and trade opportunities to the business community, through initiatives of the four member governments.</p>
Membership	Total Number	4 countries
	Members	Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines
Vision and Mission	vision	The vision for the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), as expressed by EAGA national, regional and local governments, is the development of the East ASEAN subregions and the uplift of the people residing in those areas through the potential of regional economic cooperation. In concrete terms, this means ensuring that EAGA becomes a major location in ASEAN of high value added agro-industry, natural resource based manufacturing and high grade tourism and that non-resource based industries are established in the Growth Area.
	mission	<p>The Mission is to operationalize the realization of EAGA's vision. These are :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The maximization of individual country gains from traditional comparative advantage with respect to rest of the world 2. The energetic exploitation of complementarities among the subregions 3. The extensive use of shared natural resources, technology and information 4. Joint action to overcome constraints on economic development and 5. The active expansion of intra-industry and intra-firm trade in the Area by fostering specialization and the regionalization of production
	policies	<p>In pursuit of these objectives, the specific policies programs and projects should be proposed for implementation in the various sectors of the participating subregional economics in the short term, medium term, and long term.</p> <p>The recommended policies, programs and projects are to be carried out in seven sectors, three of which are described as "productive" and four as "supportive". The productive sectors are those sectors that directly create wealth while supportive sectors are those that indirectly create wealth. The Productive Sectors are:</p> <p>Agriculture, fisheries, and forestry Industrial development and Tourism</p> <p>The Supportive Sectors are:</p> <p>Trade, investment and trade in financial services Human resource development Transport and communications and Power and energy</p> <p>The measures proposed are realistic and practical. They are based on the four subregion's demographic, geographic and natural resource features, economics, factor endowments, and policy and regulatory characteristics. Though expressed in the framework of an over-arching Strategy, they can be implemented quickly and effectively.</p>

Association of Credit Rating Agencies in Asia

Basic Information	Name	Association of Credit Rating Agencies in Asia
	Acronym	ACRAA
	Year Founded	2001
	Headquarters	Manila, Phillipines
	President	Kazuo Imai
	Who initiated	ADB
	Cooperation area	Money and Finance
Membership	Total Number	25 members from 14 countries
	Members	Bangladesh; People's Republic of China; India; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Pakistan; Philippines; Taipei,China; and Thailand.
History	origins	ACRAA was organized on 14 September 2001 at the Asian Development Bank headquarters, Metro Manila, by 15 Asian credit rating agencies from 13 countries. As of May 1, 2007, membership has increased to 25 members from 14 countries.
Vision and Aspiration	Aim and Objectives	<p>(1)To develop and maintain cooperative efforts that promote interaction and exchange of ideas, experiences, information, knowledge and skills among credit rating agencies in Asia and that would enhance their capabilities and their role of providing reliable market information. (2)To undertake activities aimed at promoting the adoption of best practices and common standards that ensure high quality and comparability of credit ratings throughout the region, following the highest norms of ethics and professional conduct.</p> <p>(3)To undertake activities aimed at promoting the development of Asia's bond markets and cross-border investment throughout the region.</p>

Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program (Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation Unit)

Basic Information	Name	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program
	Acronym	CAREC
	Year Founded	1997
	Secretariat	ADB's CAREC Unit (CARECU) has served as the Program Secretariat since March 2000.
	Cooperation area	economic cooperation, poverty (the Program has focused on financing infrastructure projects and improving the region's policy environment in the priority areas of transport, energy, trade policy and trade facilitation.
Membership	Total Number	8
	Members	Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, People's Republic of China (focusing on Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Tadjikistan, Uzbekistan. (In addition, invitations to participate are under consideration by Turkmenistan and Russian Federation.)
	alliance institutions	Asian Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Monetary Fund, Islamic Development Bank, United Nations Development Programme, and World Bank
	alliance partnership	Shanghai Cooperation Organization* and the Eurasian Economic Community
		<p>CAREC indeed represents a true, robust development partnership; a concrete example of countries and institutions cooperating; one which also achieves the ideals set out in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness – namely: ownership, harmonization, alignment, results and mutual accountability.</p> <p>CAREC is a powerful platform to marshal financial resources. The combined assistance of the multilateral institutions in the priority areas of transport, energy and trade during 2006-2008 totals \$2.3 billion for 42 projects.</p>
Vision and Aspiration	Aim and Objectives	<p>The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program was initiated in 1997. CAREC's goal is to improve living standards and to reduce poverty in CAREC countries through more efficient and effective regional economic cooperation. To date, the Program has focused on financing infrastructure projects and improving the region's policy environment in the priority areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • transport • energy • trade policy • trade facilitation <p>These areas are critical to improving the region's economic performance and livelihoods of the people, especially of the poor.</p>

Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities

Basic Information	Name	Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities
	Acronym	CAI-Asia
	Year Founded	2001
	Secretariate	Manila, Philippines (CAI-Asia Center)
	CAI-Asia Executive Director	Sophie Punte
	Who initiated	Asian Development Bank together with the World Bank and the US Agency for International Development / US-Asia Environmental Partnership
	Cooperation area	air quality of Asian cities
	Binding	no
Membership	Partnership Member	166 members : 29 cities, 32 government agency, 83 NGOs and academe, 9 international development agencies and foundations and 13 private sector.
	Country Network	7 countries : China, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan
	CAI-Asia Partnership	Non-binding, multi-stakeholder network of government agencies, NGOs, research institutes, international organizations, and private sector firms. As a non-legal entity, the Partnership will be a forum for urban air quality management and focal point for country and regional networks. Because it is complicated for Governments to join a legal entity, the formation of the Partnership enables national and local government agencies to maintain their involvement in CAI-Asia. The members are the foundation of the CAI-Asia Partnership, and they are directly responsible for the implementation of the CAI-Asia Partnership Strategy. The partnership approach brings together relevant stakeholders from local and national government, academe, civil society, and the business sector who are interested in improving air quality in major cities in Asia.
	CAI-Asia Country Network	<p>A country network is a multi-sectoral body consisting of organizations and individuals who have committed their time to promote the objectives of CAI-Asia in their respective countries and cities. The CAI-Asia Partnership encourages the setting up of representative and inclusive local multi-sectoral partnerships undertake the following roles: (i) Knowledge management related to AQM; (ii) Capacity building activities on AQM; (iii) Policy dialogue on AQM; (iv) implementation of pilot projects at the city or national level; (v) Provide the critical linkage at the local level with the regional CAI-Asia Partnership activities. The CAI-Asia country networks are also expected to provide strategic support in the operationalization of the CAI-Asia Center Business Plan and the CAI-Asia Partnership Strategy. CAI-Asia has actively engaged all partners in identifying problems and finding solutions which lead to better air quality management at the regional, national, and city levels.</p> <p>Most of the respondents in the CAI-Asia Phase I evaluation survey agreed that local networks are the best strategy to get a stronger involvement of city members in CAI-Asia activities. CAI-Asia acknowledges the importance of existing networks and believes it will be more efficient to work with these organizations rather than create entirely new organizations. However, where no existing AQM network exists and there is a clear desire from stakeholders to build a country network, CAI-Asia is willing to work with local partners to facilitate the establishment of a network.</p>
	Principles	<p>To be acknowledged as CAI-Asia Partnership local networks it is important that they meet certain eligibility criteria that reflect the operating principles adopted by the Partnership:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. multi-stakeholder participation and decision-making based on consensus; 2. focus on implementation of AQM (to be assessed based on an indicative Business Plan); 3. shared responsibilities for process and implementation; and 4. transparency and accountability.
		The following procedures will guide country network application and CAI-Asia Partnership endorsement process:
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The country networks will formalize application for endorsement by writing the Executive Director of the CAI-Asia Center, in its capacity as secretariat to the Partnership. The intention to become an endorsed CAI-Asia Partnership country network will need to be accompanied by a resolution of the Board or other oversight body of the organization. 2. The CAI-Asia Center will assess the application based on the required commitment and eligibility criteria and where required ask for additional information; 3. The Executive Director of the CAI-Asia Center shall make a recommendation to the Partnership Council on the approval of the membership application; 4. The Partnership Council will formally approve the application during its meeting or through referendum.

Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (continued)

History	origins	In 2001, Asian Development Bank together with the World Bank and the US Agency for International Development / US-Asia Environmental Partnership established the Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (CAI-Asia) as a multisector network promoting measures to improve air quality in the region. Since then, CAI-Asia has become the acknowledged knowledge manager and regional convener on urban air quality in Asia.
Vision and Aspirations	mission	to promote and demonstrate innovative ways to improve the air quality in Asian cities through partnerships and sharing experiences.
	Activities (read Strategy-pdf)	Following the decision of the CAI-Asia General Assembly on 12 December 2006, steps have been taken to activate the CAI-Asia Partnership and establish the CAI-Asia Center.
Function	CAI-Asia Partnership	<p>The CAI-Asia Partnership consists of representatives from local governments, national governments, civil society, academe, the business sector, and development organizations who are committed to promote better air quality management in the cities of Asia by</p> <p>Encouraging the development and adoption of sound science as the basis of urban AQM; Stimulating the development and implementation of policies, programs and projects on urban air quality; Reviewing progress in urban AQM in Asia and outline future priorities for urban AQM, and Fostering coordination and cooperation with other regional programs and initiatives on urban air quality management in Asia.</p>
	CAI-Asia Center	<p>The CAI-Asia Center shares the mission of the CAI-Asia Partnership to promote and demonstrate innovative ways to improve the air quality of Asian cities through partnerships and sharing experiences. The CAI-Asia Center serves as the secretariat of the CAI-Asia Partnership, a non-binding, multi-stakeholder network of government agencies, NGOs, research institutions, international organizations, and private sector firms committed to improving air quality in Asia.</p> <p>Incorporation papers of the CAI-Asia Center were signed on 11 June 2007, establishing it as an independent legal entity. This marked an important step in the struggle for clean air in Asia. Through its new status as an independent organization, the CAI-Asia Center is able to take more proactive efforts in facilitating and strengthening the air quality management (AQM) agenda at the local, national, and regional levels. The CAI-Asia Center is based in Manila, Philippines.</p> <p>The CAI-Asia Center is managed by the Executive Director who will be supported by five managers and four staff members.</p>

United Nations Asian and Pacific Training Center for Information and Communication Technology for Development

Basic Information	Name	United Nations Asian and Pacific Training Center for Information and Communication Technology for Development
	Acronym	UNAPCICT
	Year Founded	2006
	headquarters	Incheon, Republic of Korea
	URL	http://www.unapcict.org/
	cooperation area	information and communication technology (ICT)
	overview	UN-APCICT was inaugurated on 16 June 2006 as a subsidiary body of ESCAP. The objective of APCICT is to build the capacity of members and associate members of ESCAP through training programmes in the use of ICT for the purposes of socio-economic development.
Membership	total number	62 government (53 are member state and 9 are associate member.) All member states and associate members of UNESCAP are de facto members of APCICT.
	partners	United Nations Agencies, Regional Development Organizations, Academic / Training Institutions and Civil Society Organizations, National Governments, Host Country Ministries and Agencies, Private Sector.
Programmes	objective and goal	Recognizing the importance of capacity building in ICT, UN-APCICT has been established to build capacity of policymakers, project managers and trainers and conduct research on human resource development in the field of ICT that will support the training programme. The ultimate goal of the centre is to reduce the digital divide in the region. The objective of APCICT is to build the capacity of members and associate members of ESCAP through training programmes in the use of ICT for the purposes of socio-economic development.
	functions	(a) Enhancing knowledge and skills in ICT for policymakers and ICT professionals; (b) Enhancing the capacity of ICT trainers and ICT training institutions by providing for training-of-trainers programmes and exchanges of trainers and experts; (c) Providing advisory services on human resources development programmes to members and associate members; (d) Undertaking analytical studies related to human resources development in ICT, including identifying training needs and sharing best practices on human resources development programmes and training methods.
governing council	member	Republic of Korea, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and Thailand.
	overview	In accordance with its statute, UN-APCICT has a Governing Council consisting of a representative nominated by the Government of the Republic of Korea and eight representatives of members and associate members of ESCAP elected by the Commission. The council is elected for a period of three years but is eligible for re-election. The Director of UN-APCICT serves as Secretary of the Council. Representatives of States that are not members of the Council, United Nations bodies and specialized and related agencies, and such other organizations may be invited by the Executive Secretary to attend meetings of the Council. The Council is responsible for advising the Director on the formulation of the work programme. The Council reviews the administration and financial status of the Centre and the implementation of its programme of work.
Resources (extract from the statute)	All members and associate members of ESCAP are encouraged to make a regular annual contribution, on a voluntary basis, to the operations of the Centre. The United Nations administers a joint contribution trust fund in which these contributions shall be deposited.	



Profile of institution

Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Basic Information	Name	Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
	Acronym	APCTT
	Year Founded	1977
	headquarters	New Delhi, India
	URL	http://www.apctt.org/
	cooperation area	Technology Information; Technology Transfer; Tech-Entrepreneurship Development; and Innovation Management
	overview	APCTT is a regional institution of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) servicing the Asia-Pacific region. It was established in 1977 with the objective of facilitating technology transfer in the Asia-Pacific region. The Centre is headquartered in New Delhi with host facilities provided by the Government of India.
member	total number	62 government (53 are member state and 9 are associate member.) All member states and associate members of UNESCAP are de facto members of APCTT.
objectives and functions	objective and activity	The objectives of the Centre are to assist the members and associate members of ESCAP through strengthening their capabilities to develop and manage national innovation systems; develop, transfer, adapt and apply technology; improve the terms of transfer of technology; and identify and promote the development and transfer of technologies relevant to the region. The activities of APCTT are thus directed towards technology capacity-building, promotion and management of innovation as well as sub-regional and regional networking. In this direction, the Centre has focused on four specific areas of activity: Technology Information; Technology Transfer; Tech-Entrepreneurship Development; and Innovation Management, which are SME-oriented, IT-powered, environmentally responsible and gender conscious.
	functions	(a)Research and analysis of trends, conditions and opportunities; (b)Advisory services; (c)Dissemination of information and good practices; (d)Networking and partnership with international organizations and key stakeholders; (e)Training of national personnel, particularly national scientists and policy analysts.
Governing council (extract from the statute)		The Centre has a Governing Council consisting of a representative designated by the Government of India and no fewer than eight representatives nominated by other members and associate members of ESCAP elected by the Commission. The members and associate members elected by the Commission is elected for a period of three years but is eligible for re-election.

South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation initiative

Basic Information	Name	South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation initiative
	Acronym	SASEC
	Year Founded	1997
	Cooperation area	comprehensive
Membership	Total Number	4
	Members	Bangladesh, Bhutan, the eastern states of India, and Nepal.
Vision and Aspiration	SASEC Mission	"From Poverty to Growth: Transforming Challenges into Opportunities" The South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Program is helping transform challenges into opportunities in one of the world's poorest, most densely populated areas.
ADB Assistance	Background	<p>ADB's efforts to support subregional cooperation in eastern South Asia stems from the constitution of the South Asia Growth Quadrangle (SAGQ) by the Foreign Ministers of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN). The Ninth Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) on May 1997 in Male had endorsed SAGQ as a subregional initiative under SAARC.</p> <p>At the request of BBIN, ADB launched assistance for subregional cooperation under the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Program.</p>
	Umbrella Technical Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and Prioritization of Subregional Projects in South Asia (five priority sectors: Transportation and Communication, Energy and Power, Tourism, Environment Trade, Investment and Private Sector Cooperation) • Technical Assistance for South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation II
	Other ADB regional cooperation initiatives in South Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Meeting of the Private Sector on Economic Cooperation in the Eastern South Asia Subregion (ESAS), • Regional Round Table on Information and Communications Technology (ICT)
	Other ADB Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The West Bengal Corridor Development Project, a north-south road corridor from Raiganji, near Siliguri, to Barasat, the north of Kolkata in West Bengal, India with links to border points in Bangladesh. • The Road Network Development Project for Nepal's East West Highway, which links to India and Bangladesh through Kakarbita.

Profile of programs
Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand Growth Traiangle

Basic Information	Name	Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand Growth Traiangle
	Acronym	IMT-GT
	Year Founded	1993
	overview	<p>In 1993, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand recognized the potential of the IMT-GT subregion by launching the IMT-GT program of cooperation to accelerate the subregion's economic transformation, through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> exploiting complementarities and comparative advantages; enhancing competitiveness for investments and exports; promoting tourism; lowering transport and transaction costs; reducing production and distribution costs through scale economies <p>The subregion indeed has vast potential for development, with large amounts of land, abundant labor, rich natural resources and a sizeable internal market of nearly 70 million. These endowments can transform the IMT-GT into a powerful growth magnet when combined with the financial strength and entrepreneurial skills of a dynamic private sector in Central Thailand and Peninsular Malaysia.</p> <p>Economic complementarities and opportunities in the subregion span many agricultural and industrial products, including rubber, palm, oil, fruits and vegetables, marine products, oil and natural gas, chemicals and wood products.</p> <p>The Malaysian subregion has strong comparative advantage in plantation agriculture, skill-intensive manufactures, industrial and agro-chemicals, coconut oil, refined palm oil, iron and steel and processed wood products.</p>
Membership and ADB's Partnership	Total Number	3 countries
	Members	14 provinces of Southern Thailand, eight states of Peninsular Malaysia, and the island of Sumatra in Indonesia (consisting of 10 provinces).
	ADB's Partnership	<p>Following the request for assistance from the governments of the three countries in 1993, ADB came up with a seven-volume study in 1995, prepared by more than 30 experts, which identified nearly 100 projects, programs and policies required to develop the growth triangle in the next ten years.</p> <p>The study identified five priority sectors for possible cooperation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> trade investment and labor mobility; transportation and communications; agriculture and fisheries; industry and energy; tourism

Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate

Basic Information	Name	Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate
	Acronym	APPCDC
	Year Founded	2006. The Asia-Pacific Partnership was announced in July 2005 at the 38th ASEAN Ministerial in Vientiane, Laos. The Partnership was then formally launched at the January 2006 inaugural Ministerial meeting in Sydney, Australia.
	secretariate	no
	introduction	The Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate brings together seven major Asia-Pacific countries – Australia, Canada, China, India, Japan, Korea, and the United States – that collectively account for more than half of the world's economy, population, and energy use. The Partners are cooperating in an effort to address increased energy needs and the associated issues of air pollution, energy security, and climate change. An innovative public-private sector effort, the Asia-Pacific Partnership was established to achieve these objectives in ways that promote economic development, reduce poverty, and accelerate the development and deployment of cleaner, more efficient technologies. The Partnership builds on the foundation of existing bilateral and multilateral initiatives, and is consistent with and contributes to Partners' efforts under the United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change, while complementing the Kyoto Protocol.
	Policy and Implementation Committee	USA, Chair
	Organization Structure	The Policy and Implementation Committee oversees the Partnership, guides the Task Forces, and periodically reviews their work. The Administrative Support Group, currently hosted by the United States, supports the PIC and Partnership broadly. Task Forces are led by Chairs and Co-Chairs, who oversee the public-private sector collaboration.
	Cooperation area	air pollution, energy security, climate change, accelerate the development and development of cleaner, more efficient technologies.
Partnership	Binding	no
	Partnership Member	Australia, Canada, China, India, Japan, Korea, and the United States
	Shared vision of the partnership	The Partners have come together voluntarily to advance clean development and climate objectives, recognizing that development and poverty eradication are urgent and overriding goals internationally. By building on the foundation of existing bilateral and multilateral initiatives, the Partners will enhance cooperation to meet both our increased energy needs and associated challenges, including those related to air pollution, energy security, and greenhouse gas intensities, in accordance with national circumstances. The Partners recognize that national efforts will also be important in meeting the Partnership's shared vision.
	Purposes of the partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create a voluntary, non-legally binding framework for international cooperation to facilitate the development, diffusion, deployment, and transfer of existing, emerging and longer term cost- effective, cleaner, more efficient technologies and practices among the Partners through concrete and substantial cooperation so as to achieve practical results. - Promote and create enabling environments to assist in such efforts. - Facilitate attainment of our respective national pollution reduction, energy security and climate change objectives; and - Provide a forum for exploring the Partners' respective policy approaches relevant to addressing interlinked development, energy, environment, and climate change issues within the context of clean development goals, and for sharing experiences in developing and implementing respective national development and energy strategies.
	Partnership Focus	The Partnership created eight public-private Task Forces to develop and implement Action Plans. The Task Forces address five energy-intensive sectors – aluminum, buildings and appliances, cement, coal mining, and steel – as well as three energy supply sectors – cleaner fossil energy, renewable energy and distributed generation, and power generation and transmission.
	Partnership Activities	<p>The work of the Asia-Pacific Partnership comprises a wide range of activities. The initial portfolio of Partnership projects is weighted toward activities such as sectoral assessments, capacity building, best practice identification, and technology research and demonstration.</p> <p>Some illustrative examples of Partnership work include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Managing bauxite residue in aluminum production; ☐ Cooperating to standardize energy efficient lighting; ☐ Transforming waste to fuel in cement kilns; ☐ Improving carbon capture technology for coal-fired power plants; ☐ Developing coal mining health and safety strategies; ☐ Sharing best practices in power generation; ☐ Promoting solar power deployment; and ☐ Increasing usage of cleaner steel technologies.

Profile of institution

Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crop's Development in Asia and the Pacific of ESCAP

Basic Information	Name	Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crop's Development in Asia and the Pacific of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
	Acronym	CAPSA
	Year Founded	1981 (1982)
	headquarters	Bogor, Indonesia.
	URL	http://www.uncapsa.org/
	cooperation area	agriculture to alleviate poverty
	overview	CAPSA is a subsidiary body of the United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). CAPSA as well as Poverty and Development Division (PDD) contributes to the UNESCAP subprogramme on poverty and development.
objective and functions	history	The Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as "CGPRT Centre"), established in April 1981 pursuant to Commission resolution 174 (XXXIII) of 29 April 1977 and its Statute adopted by Commission resolution 220 (XXXVIII) of 1 April 1982, shall continue in existence under the title "Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops' Development in Asia and the Pacific" (hereinafter referred to as "CAPSA" or "the Centre") and under the terms of the present Statute.
	membership	62 governments. The membership of CAPSA is identical to the membership of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.
	objectives and goals	The objective of CAPSA is to promote a more supportive policy environment in member countries to enhance the living conditions of rural poor populations in disadvantaged areas, particularly those who rely on secondary crops agriculture for their livelihood, and to promote research and development related to agriculture to alleviate poverty in the Asian and Pacific region.
	tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * To produce and disseminate information and successful practices on poverty alleviation measures. * To help coordinate socio-economic and policy research on agriculture. * To network and partner with national and international organizations and key stakeholders. * To research and analyze trends and opportunities to improve the economic status of rural people. * To train national personnel, particularly scientists and policy analysts.
Governing council	functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Coordination of socio-economic and policy research on secondary crops. * Networking and partnership with other international organizations and key stakeholders. * Research and analysis of trends and opportunities with regard to improving the economic status of rural populations. * Production, packaging and dissemination of information and successful practices on poverty reduction. * Dissemination of information and good practices on poverty reduction measures. * Training of national personnel, particularly national scientists and policy analysts. * Advisory services.
		The Governing Council consists of representatives of members and associate members of ESCAP. It provides guidance to CAPSA within the UNESCAP policy framework. The current GC members country are : Bangladesh France India Indonesia Iran Japan Pakistan Rep. of Korea Thailand
Resources (extract from the statute)		<p>All members and associate members of ESCAP should be urged to make a regular annual contribution to the operations of the Centre. The United Nations shall administer a joint contribution trust fund in which these contributions shall be deposited.</p> <p>The Centre will endeavour to mobilize sufficient resources to support its activities. The United Nations shall maintain separate trust funds for voluntary contributions for technical cooperation projects or other extraordinary voluntary contributions for the activities of CAPSA.</p> <p>The financial resources of CAPSA shall be administered in accordance with the United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules.</p>

Network of Asian River Basin Organizations

Basic Information	Name	Network of Asian River Basin Organizations
	Acronym	NARBO
	Year Founded	2004
	secretariate	Saitama(JWA), Tokyo(ADB), Manila(ADB)
	chairperson	Dr. Mochammad Amron
	Who initiated	Japan Water Agency, ADB and ADBI (3rd World Water Forum in March 2003)
	Cooperation area	water resouce managemant
	Binding	no
Membership	Total Number	65 organizations, 9 interests and 15 countries. (Membership is open to organizations which implement or promote IWRM, including river basin organizations, national and federal/ provincial/local governmental organizations, regional and inter-regional knowledge partners and bilateral and multilateral development cooperation agencies.)
History	origins	<p>NARBO is the Network of Asian River Basin Organizations. Announced at the 3rd World Water Forum in March 2003, NARBO was officially established in February 2004 to promote integrated water resources management (IWRM) in monsoon areas of Asia. The need for partnerships for action to achieve IWRM was recognized at the 3rd World Water Forum held in Kyoto, Osaka, and Shiga, in the Lake Biwa and Yodo River Basin, Japan, in March 2003, where it was noted that several developed and developing countries in Asia have already established RBOs to implement IWRM. The 3rd World Water Forum highlighted the need to support these RBOs through knowledge sharing and capacity building, especially in developing countries.</p> <p>The 3rd World Water Forum also emphasized the contributions that IWRM can make to improve the water security of the poor, by incorporating the needs of the poor explicitly in water policies and management practices at all levels. Recognizing the need for networking and capacity building in the implementation of IWRM, the Water Resources Development Public Corporation of Japan (recently reconstituted as the Japan Water Agency), the Asian Development Bank, and the Asian Development Bank Institute decided at the 3rd World Water Forum in March 2003 in Kyoto, Japan, to collaborate in launching a Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO), and a letter of intent was signed at the Forum on 21 March 2003.</p>

Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (Continued)

Vision and Aspirations	goal and objectives	The goal of NARBO will be to help achieve IWRM in river basins throughout Asia. NARBO's objective will be to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of RBOs in promoting IWRM and improving water governance, through training and the exchange of information and experience among RBOs and their associated water sector agencies and knowledge partner organizations in Asia and to advise on the establishment of RBOs in Asia.
	Activities	<p>To promote IWRM in Asia, the focus of NARBO's activities will be as follows:</p> <p>(1) Activities for the whole of NARBO</p> <p>The activities joined by all members of NARBO will be as follows:</p> <p>(a) Advocacy and raising awareness for IWRM among RBOs, water sector apex bodies, and leading water sector agencies in the region, mainly through regional workshops.</p> <p>(b) Sharing of information, good practices, and lessons learned for IWRM among the participating organizations, mainly by operating 4 databases and a website for IWRM exchanging information, and by sending a newsletter by email as well as posting on the web site and holding (sub) regional workshops.</p> <p>(2) Activities for regional areas of NARBO</p> <p>RBOs, national and federal governmental organizations with expertise in IWRM, regional and interregional knowledge partner organizations for IWRM, and bilateral and multilateral development cooperation agencies, will be requested to support RBOs in Asia in the following types of activities.</p> <p>(a) Supporting NARBO members to improve water governance, including the enabling policy, institutional, and legal framework for IWRM, and the formulation of the action plans.</p> <p>(b) Building capacity of RBOs in implementing IWRM, mainly through staff exchange and training among participating organizations.</p> <p>(c) Supporting RBOs with technical advice in regard to the planning, conservation, development, and the proper and efficient operation and maintenance of water resources facilities, to improve IWRM.</p> <p>(d) Fostering regional cooperation for improved management of water resources in transboundary river basins.</p> <p>(3) The scope of IWRM activities to be supported by NARBO will be approved by the NARBO General Meeting.</p> <p>(4) NARBO's activities will initially focus on the monsoonal areas of Asia.</p>

Greater Mekong Subregion Program

Basic Information	Name	Greater Mekong Subregion Program
	Acronym	GMS program
	Year Founded	1992
	Who initiated	ADB
	Cooperation area	economic cooperation (high priority subregional projects in transport, energy, telecommunications, environment, human resource development, tourism, trade, private sector investment, and agriculture.)
Membership	Total Number	6
	Members	Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam.
History	origins	<p>Since 1992, the countries of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) have embarked on a program of economic cooperation (the GMS Program) that aims to promote development through closer economic linkages.</p> <p>The GMS Program, with support from ADB and other donors, helps the implementation of high priority subregional projects in transport, energy, telecommunications, environment, human resource development, tourism, trade, private sector investment, and agriculture.</p> <p>Substantial progress has been achieved in terms of implementing GMS projects since 1992. Priority infrastructure projects worth around US\$10 billion have either been completed or are being implemented. Among these are the upgrading of the Phnom Penh (Cambodia)-Ho Chi Minh City (Viet Nam) highway and the East-West Economic Corridor that will eventually extend from the Andaman Sea to Da Nang. A significant amount of resources has been mobilized for the GMS Program.</p> <p>As of the end of 2008, the 41 GMS projects cost an estimated US\$11 billion of which ADB has extended loans amounting to US\$3.8 billion generated US\$4 billion in cofinancing for these investment projects mobilized a total of US\$208 million of grant resources, of which US\$94.1 million have been provided by ADB, to finance 179 technical assistance projects focusing on human resource development, tourism, environment, trade and investment.</p>
Vision and Aspiration	Aim and Objectives	The program has contributed to the development of infrastructure to enable the development and sharing of the resource base, and promote the freer flow of goods and people in the subregion. It has also led to the international recognition of the subregion as a growth area.
	strategic framework	<p>A 10 year strategic framework for the GMS Program was formulated by the six countries with the assistance of ADB in 2001. This strategic framework was endorsed by the six GMS Leaders at their first Summit held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in November 2002. It envisions a well-integrated and prosperous Mekong subregion – free of poverty and committed to protecting the environment that is vital to the subregion's future wellbeing. The framework focuses on five development thrusts to achieve this goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strengthen infrastructure linkages through a multisectoral approach • facilitate cross-border trade and investment • enhance private sector participation in development and improve its competitiveness • develop human resources and skill competencies <p>• protect the environment and promote sustainable use of the subregion's shared natural resources. Strategically, the GMS vision seeks to achieve enhanced connectivity, increased competitiveness, and a greater sense of community in the GMS. Greater connectivity will help to physically integrate the region. Road, rail, water and air transport systems, together with telecommunications and power systems, are to be strengthened to set up better networks among the six GMS countries and to fortify linkages with other networks in Asia and the rest of the world.</p>

Profile of institution

United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery

Basic Information	Name	United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery
	Acronym	UNAPCAEM
	Year Founded	2004
	headquarters	Beijing, China
	URL	http://www.unapcaem.org/
Membership	total number	15: Bangladesh, China, Korea (Democratic People's Republic of), Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines (the), Korea (the Republic of), Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam
	cooperation area	APCAEM is committed to enhancing environmentally sustainable agricultural and food production, applying green and modern agro-technology for the well being of producers and consumers of agricultural/food products.
Background	history	The predecessor of UNAPCAEM was the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery (RANM). With the initiative of 8 countries and support of UNDP, FAO, UNIDO and some other countries, it was established in the Philippines in 1977. RANM was incorporated with UNESCAP later and the management was organized by UNESCAP. In 2000, the office was moved to Bangkok, Thailand. With the extension of its mandate, the name of RANM was changed as Regional Network of Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (RNAEM). In 2002, United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (UNAPCAEM) came into being with China's pledging to host the centre in Beijing. UNAPCAEM office was officially operated in Beijing in November 2003.
	overview	The United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (APCAEM) is a subsidiary body/regional institution of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), based in Beijing, P.R. China. Following the host country headquarters agreement signed between the Government of China and the United Nations in November 2003, APCAEM began its operations in 2004. The revised Statute of APCAEM was endorsed by the Governing Council of APCAEM in December 2004 and adopted by the Commission at its sixty-first session in May 2005. APCAEM is particularly committed to make contributions in achieving MDGs 1, 3, 7 and 8 for the Asian and Pacific region through the implementation of its mandated work programmes.
Objectives	main objectives	The overall objective of UNAPCAEM is to assist UNESCAP members and associate members in increasing their outputs, labor productivity and market access for agro-based products.
	immediate objectives	The immediate objective of UNAPCAEM is to assist members in promoting agricultural mechanization and modernization, and transfer of agricultural technologies with a particular focus on rural SMEs, enhancing their ability to benefit effectively from trade and investment opportunities.

Profile of institution

United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (Continued)

Mission and Vision	mission	<p>APCAEM will be guided by the UN Millennium Development Goals, the World Summit on Sustainable Development and other internationally agreed development goals, as well as the resolutions and mandates adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).</p> <p>APCAEM will pursue its missions for our Member States through information exchange and knowledge networking, policy research, technical assistance in capacity building and training, outreach/advocacy programmes, and by fostering partnerships.</p>
	vision	The UNAPCAEM vision is to become a leading centre and eventually a “centre of excellence” in Asia and the Pacific for promoting cost-effective technologies for rural farmers and efficient and appropriate agricultural engineering and machinery, value addition and agro-industrial linkages for productivity improvements, employment generation and overall rural development and poverty alleviation for Asian and Pacific economies.
	strategy	<p>The UNAPCAEM strategy will be implemented in close coordination with the objectives of the programme on trade and investment, especially in programmes related to capacity-building for the technological improvement of rural enterprises, technology transfer for the production of low-cost farm machinery through rural SMEs and investment promotion in rural enterprises and industries. The programme will also respond to the needs of developing countries in promoting modern and efficient technologies for agricultural productivity improvements, capacity enhancement in technological processing at the post-harvest stage, value addition and waste minimization of agricultural produce and by-product value addition through improved technologies, and improved employment opportunities for rural youth and women in agro-processing and agro-based rural industrialization. The programme will help developing countries, especially the least developed countries and economies in transition, in trading agro-based products with better processing and packaging and in raising awareness of the international standards, including WTO requirements in the trading of agro-based products.</p> <p>UNAPCAEM will actively seek funding sources to implement its work programme.</p>
	functions	The Centre will achieve its objective through undertaking, inter alia, the following functions: Assistance for the improvement of agricultural engineering, mechanization, automation, biotechnology and genetic engineering; Enhancement of farm mechanization technologies in addressing issues related to subsistence farming for increased food security and poverty reduction and promoting agro-based small and medium-sized enterprise development and commercial farming to seize opportunities for increased market access and agro-food trade; A focus on an agro-based enterprise cluster concept and enterprise development activities to enhance the capabilities of members in identifying potential agricultural commodities in their respective countries on a clustering basis; Regional cooperation in technology transfer through networking of focal point national institutes in UNAPCAEM's member countries and other relevant institutions; Promotion of the technology transfer process from research and development institutes to the agricultural and farm machinery extension systems in member countries for poverty reduction; Dissemination and exchange
The governing council	member (2009-2012)	9 countries : Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Korea (the Republic of), Malaysia, Pakistan, Thailand, Viet Nam
	overview	The Governing Council of APCAEM has mandated it to focus on three thematic cluster programmes of agricultural engineering, food chain management, and agro-enterprise development & trade. The representative is designated by the Government of China and eight representatives nominated by other members and associate members of ESCAP elected by the Commission. The members and associate members elected by the Commission is elected for a period of three years but shall be eligible for re-election.
Resources		<p>1.The voluntary contributions of the members and associate members of ESCAP and other Governments;</p> <p>2.international and national institutions; 3. the sale of publications and services furnished by UNAPCAEM;</p> <p>4.Other funds received by UNAPCAEM, as considered appropriate by the Board.</p>

website

<http://www.unapcaem.org/>

brochure

<http://www.unapcaem.org/admin/exb/ADImage/brochure.pdf>

United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

Basic Information	Name	United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
	Acronym	UNSIAP
	Year Founded	1970
	headquarters	Tokyo Metropolitan Area, Japan
	URL	http://www.unsiap.or.jp/
	cooperation area	statistics
Basic Information	overview	The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (formerly the Asian Statistical Institute) was established in May 1970 as a centre for statistical training for the developing countries in Asia and the Pacific region. The Institute aims to strengthen the capability of the developing countries of the region to collect, analyze and disseminate statistics as well as to produce timely and high-quality statistics that can be utilized for economic and social development planning, and to assist those developing countries in establishing or strengthening their statistical training capability and other related activities.
	history	The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) was established in Tokyo in 1970 by twenty countries in Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as an international center to bring about regional co-operation in training government statisticians from developing countries of the region. SIAP was accorded the legal status of a subsidiary body of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) as of 1 April 1995. As the host country, the Government of Japan (GOJ) extends co-operation to the Institute through the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications (MPHPT) as the cooperating agency.
Membership and Partnership	membership	62 government (53 are member state and 9 are associate member.) All member states and associate members of UNESCAP are de facto members of SIAP.
	partnership policy	In addition to a gradual restructuring of its Tokyo Metropolitan Area based courses, with emphasis on flexibility to respond to the changing demands and needs of the region and to provide complementarities to the outreach activities, the Institute is also strengthening and developing partnerships with: individual member countries for collaborating with their statistical training institutions and statistical training units within governments and with other national institutions; and with international organizations, regional and sub regional organizations for collaborative arrangements. With assistance from UNDP, the Institute plans to develop a range of new partnerships with countries aimed at strengthening their statistical systems to generate the various demands for statistics and indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and assisting in the annual production of MDG reports.
Objectives and Functions	objectives	The objectives of the Institute are to strengthen , through practically oriented training of official statisticians, the capability of the developing members and associate members and disadvantaged economies in transition of the region to collect, analyses and disseminate statistics as well as to produce timely and high-quality statistics that can be utilized for economic and social development planning, and to assist those developing members and associate members and disadvantaged economies in transition in establishing or strengthening their statistical training capability and other related activities.
	functions	* Training of official statisticians, utilizing existing centres and institutions for training available in member States; * Networking and partnership with other international organizations and key stakeholders; * Dissemination of information.
Governing council	extract from the statute	The Institute shall have a Governing Council consisting of a representative designated by the Government of Japan and eight representatives nominated by other members and associate members of ESCAP elected by the Commission. The members and associate members to be elected by the Commission shall be elected for a period of five years but shall be eligible for re-election.
	member(2008)	Japan, China, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, Republic of Korea and Thailand.
Resources	extract from the statute	All members and associate members of ESCAP should be urged to make a regular annual contribution to the operations of the Institute. The United Nations shall administer a contribution trust fund for SIAP, as referred to in paragraph 5, in which these contributions shall be deposited and utilized solely for the Institute's activities, subject to paragraph 21 of this Statute. The United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and other sources are also encouraged to make a voluntary contribution to the operations of the Institute. The United Nations shall maintain separate trust funds for voluntary contributions for technical cooperation projects or other extraordinary voluntary contributions for activities of the Institute. The financial resources of the Institute shall be administered in accordance with the United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules.