

THE COLOMBO PLAN



**PROCEEDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS
OF THE THIRTY EIGHTH
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

2 to 4 JULY 2001

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FOR CO-OPERATIVE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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MEMBER COUNTRIES

Afghanistan	Malaysia
Australia	Maldives
Bangladesh	Myanmar
Bhutan	Nepal
Cambodia	New Zealand
Fiji	Pakistan
India	Papua New Guinea
Indonesia	Philippines
Iran	Singapore
Japan	Sri Lanka
Korea, Republic of	Thailand
Laos	United States of America

Mongolia (provisional member)

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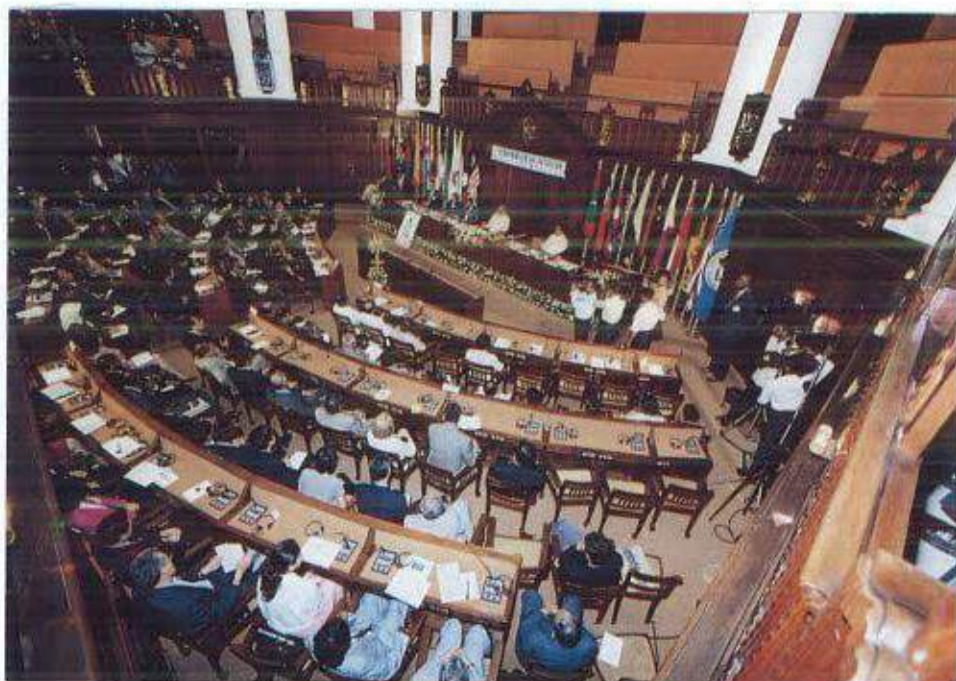
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Formal inauguration of the 38th Consultative Committee Meeting which was held on Monday, 2 July 2001 at the Presidential Secretariat, Colombo.



A section of the delegates who attended the formal inauguration of the 38th Consultative Committee Meeting.



Group photograph of delegates who attended the formal inauguration of the 38th Consultative Committee Meeting taken at the entrance to the Presidential Secretariat.

RECORD OF CONCLUSIONS

A. FORMALITIES AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. The 38th Meeting of the Colombo Plan Consultative Committee was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 2 to 4 July 2001. The formal inauguration of the 38th Consultative Committee Meeting was held in conjunction with the Colombo Plan's 50th Anniversary Commemorative Meeting. The Secretary-General of the 38th Consultative Committee Meeting was Mr. V. K. Nanayakkara, Secretary to the Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

2. The meeting was attended by delegates from nineteen member countries and observers from six international and regional organisations as well as ten non-member countries. The President of the Colombo Plan Council, the Secretary-General and staff of the Colombo Plan Secretariat and the Director of the Colombo Plan Staff College for Technician Education also participated as advisors. A list of participants is included at Annex XII.

3. The Consultative Committee expressed deep appreciation to Hon. Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka, Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, for his inaugural address. The inaugural address is included at Annex I. The Consultative Committee also expressed appreciation for the addresses made by Dr. U. Sarat Chandran, Secretary-General of the Colombo Plan Secretariat and Mr. V. K. Nanayakkara, Secretary-General of the 38th Consultative Committee Meeting. The addresses are included at Annex II.

4. The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, inaugurated the 38th Consultative Committee Meeting and the Fiftieth Anniversary Commemorative Meeting of the Colombo Plan. In his inaugural address he recalled that the primary focus of all Colombo Plan activities was on human resource development in the Asia-Pacific region, and this objective remained essentially unchanged even today. Human resource development assumed a special significance today in the context of the rapid transformation of the global economy into a knowledge-based economy. Industries based on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) increasingly played a critical role in the economies of the region. These emerging industries required technologically competent personnel and leaders. The member countries of the Colombo Plan which have developed more expertise in the ICT sector could consider playing a lead role in formulating new initiatives for this purpose. It is time that the Colombo Plan evolved a programme of work to extend assistance to developing nations in their efforts to bridge the digital divide. The Colombo Plan since its inception has encouraged the transfer and sharing of development experiences among member countries within the region, with emphasis on the concept of south-south co-operation. The Prime Minister highlighted the fact that outside the purview of the traditional development-related activities of the Colombo Plan, it had also undertaken under its Drug Advisory Programme the training of personnel in counter-narcotic activities. This training is extremely relevant to member countries owing to the dangerous nexus between drug trafficking and crime.

5. The Prime Minister wished the Colombo Plan all success in its future endeavours and fruitful deliberations at the 38th Consultative Committee Meeting.

6. His Excellency Mohammad Saleh, President of the Colombo Plan Council, expressed gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka for his gracious presence and for formally inaugurating the 38th Consultative Committee Meeting. The vote of thanks is included at Annex III.

7. The Colombo Plan's 50th Anniversary Commemorative events included the launching of a souvenir booklet containing messages from the heads of state/government of member countries; the cancellation of a commemorative postage stamp and first day cover; the issuance of a commemorative coin; and the announcement of the winners of the art competition for children of member countries.

8. Mr. D. Wijesinghe, Secretary to the Cabinet of Ministers and the leader of the delegation of Sri Lanka was elected Chairman, proposed by Fiji and seconded by Maldives. Mr. Mortaza Damanpak-Jami, Director, Multilateral Economic Co-operation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the leader of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran was elected Deputy Chairman, proposed by Bhutan and seconded by Laos. The Chairman proposed that the Deputy Chairman be also nominated as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

9. The Consultative Committee adopted the agenda without any amendments. The agenda is included at Annex IV.

B. COUNTRY STATEMENTS ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE COLOMBO PLAN

10. Member countries congratulated the Colombo Plan on completing fifty years of service to the Asia and Pacific region and supported the activities of the Colombo Plan. The validity of the Colombo Plan even after fifty years of existence was also stressed. Member countries placed great emphasis on the current relevance of the activities of the Colombo Plan, in which human capital development and south-south technical co-operation continue to play pivotal roles.

C. TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AND MATTERS CONCERNING THE COLOMBO PLAN REGION

The international development context and the regional picture

11. The representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) delivered statements on the on-going co-operation between the Colombo Plan and their respective organisations elaborating such co-operation in an international development context and also from a regional perspective. The statements are included at Annex V.

Technical co-operation

12. The Consultative Committee emphasised the importance of south-south technical co-operation in development and elaborated on the background paper prepared by the Colombo Plan Secretariat, which is included at Annex VI. The background paper includes on-going activities for promoting south-south technical co-operation and also provides new ideas, and recommendations for further Colombo Plan involvement in this area. During the consideration of this item, a number of recommendations and proposals were presented by member countries which include inter-alia, the following:

- a) emphasising the usefulness of reviving the long-term fellowship programme;
- b) encouraging the greater interaction between the Colombo Plan and other sub-regional inter-governmental organisations in the Asia-Pacific region with a broader regional perspective in order to make optimal use of existing resources in the whole region. In this context, the issue of a possible co-operative relationship between the Colombo Plan and the Economic Co-operation Organisation (ECO) in areas of common concern was recommended;
- c) continuing the Colombo Plan's ongoing south-south technical co-operation activities in a more focused and action oriented manner, and also consider new areas and concepts to cope with the changing international economic environment; and
- d) stressing the need for more innovative ways to overcome funding problems for technical co-operation programmes and designing programmes with comparative advantages. In this connection financial assistance for third country technical co-operation programmes such as the "India Millennium Fund for the Colombo Plan" was recognised as a secure source for financing future programmes.

Country presentations of bilateral technical co-operation programmes

13. Under the item on country presentations of bilateral technical co-operation programmes, a number of member countries presented their on-going co-operation with the Colombo Plan and their plans for future co-operation in this context. During the consideration of this issue, many important elements were raised. The Consultative Committee acknowledged with appreciation the decision by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide financial contributions to the Colombo Plan within the third country training programme mechanism and also allocation of funds to support the on-going programmes in priority areas. The Consultative Committee also noted that the major donor member countries reiterated their continued support to technical co-operation activities within the third country training programme mechanism and the project-by-project approach. A summary of country presentations is included at Annex VII.

SPECIAL ISSUE I:

KNOWLEDGE: THE KEY TO FASTER GROWTH OF MEMBER COUNTRIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY – THE ROLE OF THE COLOMBO PLAN

14. On this special issue, the Consultative Committee took note of the two background papers, one prepared by the Government of Fiji and the other by the Colombo Plan Secretariat. These background papers are included at Annex VIII. The Fiji background paper recommends the establishment of multi-media distance study systems at the Colombo Plan Staff College for Technician Education. It further recommends that the Colombo Plan should embark on introducing various types of courses with specific objectives via distance learning. The curriculum will need to be comprehensive as well as specific. Combining the technical advancement of digital technology such as computer, communication and multi-media, teaching and learning methods and resources would be drastically changed from the current situation. Learners would study either in a school, institution, at home or at their work places. This means that self-learning type distance study would be more common and learners would study using mainly package media as well as network media.

15. In the second background paper prepared by the Colombo Plan Secretariat the theoretical underpinning of knowledge as a key variable in growth process was examined. It also elaborated on the various steps taken by the Colombo Plan to enhance human capital in member countries as it was the bedrock of economic and social development. The background paper concluded that the organisation should continue to play an important role in the coming years in the development of human capital in the region so that member countries can take fullest advantage of the new knowledge-based economy.

16. During the consideration of this issue, it was emphasised that innovation in information and communication technology (ICT) is the key to the creation of a knowledge-based economy and to increasing industrial productivity. However, the full potential of this technology is not accessible to most of the developing countries and many constraints are placed before them in using digital opportunities. While concern was expressed about the widening of the digital divide both within countries and between the developed and developing countries, it was expressed that proper access of Colombo Plan member countries to digital opportunities would expedite their economic and social development.

17. The Consultative Committee recommended that in dealing with ICT issues, the Colombo Plan could adopt a two pronged approach: (i) to assist member countries to identify shortcomings in areas of infrastructure, human resources, capacity building and provide assistance in other areas including the establishment of the necessary legal framework; and (ii) to harmonise its future programmes on ICT with the on-going international efforts in this field.

SPECIAL ISSUE II:

THE ROLE OF REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN COMBATING DRUG ABUSE WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE COLOMBO PLAN

18. The Consultative Committee took note of the presentation made by the Director, Drug Advisory Programme (DAP), who elaborated on the various activities undertaken by the DAP and its future strategies to assist Colombo Plan member countries in combating drug abuse. The background paper prepared by the Colombo Plan Secretariat is included at Annex IX.

19. Many member countries submitted country presentations on their national programmes and activities to combat narcotic drug abuse as well as their views on the background paper prepared by the Colombo Plan Secretariat. The following issues were emphasised:

- noting that almost all member countries of the Colombo Plan are affected by drug abuse and trafficking the importance of combating drug abuse as a means to save the human resource factor of member countries which plays a key role in their development process, was stressed;
- member countries elaborated on the continuing efforts at national, regional and global levels to combat drug abuse and trafficking;
- the on-going activities of the DAP were commended. It was emphasised that the DAP should further continue its activities with the strong support of all member countries. Malaysia reaffirmed its support to the DAP with an increase in its annual contribution to US\$ 10,000. Thailand also confirmed its continued financial support to the DAP;
- in order to maximise available resources and create a pool of Asian trainers, the DAP's efforts will concentrate on the Training of Trainers in various aspects to reduce the demand and supply of drugs in the Colombo Plan region; and
- the need for the Colombo Plan to co-operate with other Asian regional arrangements, which are also active in the field of combating drug abuse was also stressed. The experience of the Economic Co-operation Organisation (ECO), and the efforts of some of its member countries in that direction were also highlighted.

D. COLOMBO PLAN ACTIVITIES

Report of the Secretary-General, Colombo Plan Secretariat

20. In his report to the Consultative Committee, the Secretary-General, Colombo Plan Secretariat outlined the strategy set out for the organisation for the last two years since the conclusion of the 37th Consultative Committee Meeting in Manila in 1998. He highlighted the important accomplishments of the organisation within the last two years and the vision for its future beyond 50 years. The report also outlined the systemic improvements carried out in the organisation to increase efficiency and promote excellence, and also the achievements of the programmes of the Colombo Plan. The report also indicated the results of fund raising activities for programmes, from non-member countries; the new publications issued; and the greater interaction of the Colombo Plan with other international organisations and institutions of excellence in the delivery of programmes. In his report the Secretary-General made a recommendation that the level of participation at Consultative Committee Meetings be upgraded to ministerial level as was the practice before 1994. Areas needing attention and the new initiatives of the Colombo Plan were also included in the report. A vision statement and strategy for the organisation in the new knowledge-based economy and promoting human capital development and south-south technical co-operation in the Colombo Plan region were also covered in the report. The Secretary-General's report is included at Annex X.

21. The Consultative Committee reiterated the need for a permanent headquarters building for the Colombo Plan Secretariat. The Chairman supported this initiative and assured the Consultative Committee that Sri Lanka would actively assist the Colombo Plan Secretariat in this endeavour.

Proposed Amendments to the Colombo Plan Constitution

22. The Consultative Committee discussed the proposed amendments to the Constitution of the Colombo Plan and adopted the proposed amendment to:

Chapter I - Purposes and Functions - Article 1(f), as given below:

*"Article 1(f): to promote and advance the concept of South-South Co-operation between the Colombo Plan region and other regions using the expertise of the Colombo Plan member countries"*¹.

23. The Consultative Committee discussed the proposed amendments to Chapter III - Membership - Article 3, on the question of arrears in the payment of member countries' financial contributions and took note of the suggestions made by member countries. The Consultative Committee decided that this proposed amendment needs to be considered further and referred the matter to the Colombo Plan Council for further consultation.

¹ Assistance under the Colombo Plan is primarily for its member countries in Asia and the Pacific and any assistance extended to countries in other regions will be governed by the availability of financial and other resources.

24. While considering the issue, the Consultative Committee emphasised the importance of timely payments of budgetary contributions by member countries in order to put the Colombo Plan Secretariat on a firm financial footing to enable it to implement its programmes.

Annual Reports of the Colombo Plan to the Consultative Committee

25. The Consultative Committee considered and adopted the reports of the Colombo Plan Council for 1998/1999 and 1999/2000. Member countries acknowledged the contributions made by the Colombo Plan Secretariat.

Annual Reports of the Governing Board of the Colombo Plan Staff College for Technician Education to the Consultative Committee

26. The Consultative Committee considered and adopted the reports of the Governing Board of the Colombo Plan Staff College for Technician Education (CPSC) covering the period since the 37th Consultative Committee Meeting in 1998. Member countries expressed appreciation for the valuable training opportunities afforded by the CPSC.

The Colombo Declaration

27. The Consultative Committee considered the proposal for the adoption of a Colombo Declaration. The Consultative Committee considered it necessary to re-affirm the support of all member countries to the goals and objectives of the Colombo Plan on the occasion of its 50th anniversary and accordingly adopted the "Statement by the Consultative Committee on the 50th Anniversary of the Colombo Plan". The statement is included at Annex XI.

Date and Venue of the next Consultative Committee Meeting

28. The Consultative Committee accepted with pleasure the gracious offer of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 39th Consultative Committee Meeting in the first quarter of 2003.

Any Other Business

29. There was no other business to be discussed under this item.

E. STATEMENTS BY OBSERVERS

30. The observer delegations from Vietnam and from the International Water Management Institute delivered statements which were appreciated by the Consultative Committee.

F. CONCLUDING SESSION

31. The Chairman in his closing statement expressed his thanks to the distinguished delegates and observers for the excellent contributions made by them for the successful conclusion of the deliberations. He also thanked the Secretary-General of the Colombo Plan Secretariat and the Secretary-General of the 38th Consultative Committee Meeting and their respective staff for all the arrangements made in connection with the Meeting.

32. The Deputy Chairman responding on behalf of all delegates and observers thanked the Government of Sri Lanka for its gracious hospitality. He also thanked the Secretary-General of the 38th Consultative Committee Meeting and the Secretary-General of the Colombo Plan Secretariat and their staff for their dedication and professionalism in conducting the activities of the Colombo Plan and the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting. In conclusion, he invited all delegates and observers to the Islamic Republic of Iran for the 39th Consultative Committee Meeting to be held in 2003.

33. The Consultative Committee expressed its deep appreciation for the excellent arrangements and for the generous hospitality extended by the Government of Sri Lanka, and the outstanding services provided by the 38th Consultative Committee Meeting Secretariat under the direction of Mr. V. K. Nanayakkara, Secretary-General and the invaluable support provided by the Colombo Plan Secretariat.

**Inaugural Address by the Honourable Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka,
Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**

Honourable Ministers,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates and Observers,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. Let me begin by expressing my sense of privilege and honour at being present on this historic occasion, the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Colombo Plan and the inauguration of the 38th session of its Consultative Committee. I extend a warm welcome to all the distinguished representatives of member states and observers who have gathered here today.
2. For us in Sri Lanka, this is an occasion of particular significance. Sri Lanka and Australia were among the chief promoters of the concept of the Colombo Plan. The Plan originated here in Colombo in 1950 at the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers' Conference and hence takes its name from the city of its birth. Colombo continues to be the seat of its secretariat. I am happy to note that the 50th anniversary of the Colombo Plan is being celebrated in all the other member states as well.
3. It may be recalled that the 25th anniversary celebrations of the Colombo Plan were also held here in this city in 1976 under the guidance of the late Prime Minister, Hon. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, who took a special interest in its activities.
4. Sri Lanka has over the years played an active role in the activities of the organization. Sir Percy Spender, Minister for External Affairs, Australia and Mr. J R Jayawardene, Minister of Finance, Sri Lanka, then Ceylon, were among the Commonwealth representatives who gathered in Colombo in 1950 to initiate steps to establish the Colombo Plan. At the time the blueprint of the Plan was being formulated, most of the countries in Asia were recovering from the consequences of World War II, and emerging from centuries of colonial rule. The Colombo Plan has contributed, in no small measure, to the economic and social development of its member states during a crucial stage in their history by pursuing the objective of working together to raise the living standards of its peoples.
5. From its initial membership of seven made up exclusively of Commonwealth countries, the Colombo Plan has over the years, expanded to twenty-four members including many non-Commonwealth countries. Even during the Cold War, Colombo Plan members, irrespective of their ideological differences, worked together in pursuit of economic development through co-operation. The success of these co-operative efforts within the Colombo Plan framework no doubt served as a model for subsequent regional co-operation processes in this part of the world.

6. We in Asia and the Pacific are particularly appreciative of the Colombo Plan as the first multilateral effort in regional co-operation in our region. Since its inception five decades ago, the Colombo Plan has helped many developing countries in Asia and the Pacific to implement several development projects and also educational and skills training programmes. Many subsequent bilateral and multilateral assistance programmes in the region have followed these pioneering efforts under the Colombo Plan.

7. The Colombo Plan's primary focus on human resource development in the Asia Pacific region remains essentially unchanged even today. We applaud the Colombo Plan's successful efforts in creating additional opportunities for higher education in the region through which many students throughout the region have benefitted. Over the years, thousands of scholarships have been awarded for the pursuit of higher education in the universities of more advanced countries. Opportunities have also been provided for students to obtain diplomas and other qualifications in different fields such as civil engineering, business management and economics. The Colombo Plan has thus become a household word across Asia and the phrase "Going on a Plan" has become to mean winning a prestigious scholarship. It is noteworthy that the Plan's alumni scattered across Asia and the Pacific today are rendering yeomen service to their countries in different capacities. I have no doubt that there are, in this very audience, many former Colombo Plan trainees.

8. Needless to say, Sri Lanka's development process has received much needed technical assistance under the Colombo Plan in the form of expertise and training facilities for our technicians, teachers, doctors and administrators. To date, approximately 10,000 Sri Lankan professionals in various fields have been trained under the Colombo Plan assistance schemes.

9. The Colombo Plan's focus on human resource development assumes a special significance today in the context of the rapid transformation of the global economy into a knowledge-based economy. Industries based on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) are increasingly assuming a critical role in the economies of the region. These emerging industries require technologically competent personnel and leaders. Just as the Colombo Plan assisted higher education efforts in the region five decades ago, today its efforts are being directed towards endowing the youth of the region with the necessary skills and knowledge to strengthen the new economy. Member states of the Colombo Plan who have more developed expertise in the ICT sector, could consider playing a lead role in formulating new initiatives for this purpose. I observe that issues related to human resources and the knowledge-based economy are on the agenda of the current session of the Consultative Committee. I am confident that your deliberations on these issues will result in concrete and practical recommendations.

10. In the rapidly changing global economic environment, Sri Lanka, with its small domestic market and limited natural resources, hopes to capitalize on its human resources and strategic geographical location. Investment in the development of our educational system is the key element in our approach. Sri Lanka has achieved one of the highest literacy rates in the world through a system, which places the minimum financial burden on students. We have yet to realize the full

potential of our secondary, tertiary and technical education systems. There is a growing realization that our international competitiveness and prosperity rest less on our natural resources and increasingly more on our skills, knowledge, innovation and enterprise.

11. We in Sri Lanka have taken several steps to enhance technological skills and knowledge among our youth and workforce. Obviously much remains to be done. Dramatic changes in the ICT sector, especially the birth of the Internet, have accelerated the pace and means of diffusion of scientific and technological advances. Developing countries like ours, with restricted technological resources, face daunting challenges in responding promptly to the emerging opportunities of the IT revolution. It is time that the Colombo Plan evolved a programme of work to extend assistance to developing nations in their efforts to bridge the digital divide.

12. The Colombo Plan, since its inception, has encouraged the transfer and sharing of development experiences among member states within the region with emphasis on the concept of South-South Co-operation. Sri Lanka believes that sharing experiences in agriculture, effective health care, development-oriented technology and educational programmes could help countries of the South to find solutions to meet the basic needs of their people.

13. Sri Lanka has hitherto been a recipient of international technical assistance. However, from this year a scheme has been initiated whereby Sri Lanka will assist a number of developing countries in the region by sharing with them expertise in areas where Sri Lanka has demonstrable experience and knowledge. This scheme, which is in many ways complementary to the efforts of the Colombo Plan, has successfully completed five training projects to date and has several more planned for the rest of the year. With the implementation of this scheme, Sri Lanka is making its modest contribution towards South-South Co-operation.

14. Despite the growing number of diverse South-South Co-operation projects, the lack of effective follow-up measures and strategies for their implementation militates against the realization of their full potential. By intensifying exchanges and interactions among developing countries in fora such as the Colombo Plan, the effectiveness of South-South Co-operation could be strengthened, thus supplementing and reinforcing on-going North-South Co-operation through the membership of developed countries in the Colombo Plan.

15. I am aware that among the current Colombo Plan activities are several programmes for the dissemination of updated expertise in public administration. Since the commencement of this programme in 1995, Sri Lanka has received 59 training offers at various regional centres of excellence. In our country, a significant portion of Government expenditure is spent on maintaining the public service and we are focusing on efforts to enhance its efficiency. Lessons drawn from the recent instability in the global economy clearly demonstrates the importance of good governance in both the public and the private sectors for stable social and economic growth. I have no doubt that the Colombo Plan can contribute immensely towards handling this issue.

16. It is increasingly clear that the Colombo Plan needs to adopt an approach which focuses more and more on economic issues. The ongoing twin processes of liberalization and globalization have shifted the emphasis from self-contained growth within a regional or sub-regional framework

to one of enhancing the capacity of developing countries to participate in the international economic system. The Colombo Plan under its private sector development programme has tried to address some of these concerns which impact particularly on the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) sector, with special emphasis on trade and WTO issues relating to its member states. Workshops designed to help develop the necessary skills for economic negotiations have been conducted under these schemes, which have proved to be immensely beneficial. During the five years of its existence, this private sector development programme has offered 30 placements to participants from Sri Lanka. The emphasis the Colombo Plan has placed on the SME sector is commendable, as the small and medium enterprises are the enterprises that support the livelihood of many millions in our region.

17. Another important task that the Colombo Plan has undertaken, although outside the purview of its traditional development related activities, is the Drug Advisory Programme, which trains personnel to be engaged in counter-narcotic activities. Such action is of paramount importance, since we continue to witness the development of a dangerous nexus between drug trafficking and terrorism. Drug trafficking is a major source of revenue for the activities of several terrorist organizations, which seek to destabilize our countries. The global ramifications of this dual menace need to be confronted at every level and in all its forms. The Colombo Plan activities, which are intended to promote narcotic demand reduction through awareness schemes and relapse prevention, addressing groups at risk should, we earnestly hope, play a crucial role in the reduction of narcotic supplies. Approximately 500 persons in Sri Lanka, from both Government and Non-Governmental Organizations have benefited from study and training fellowship awards under the Drug Advisory Programme.

18. I am confident that the new millennium will see the Colombo Plan rise to new heights. I am glad to observe that under its programme on Public Administration, an Africa Initiative has commenced in order to share the development experiences of our member states with that continent. I wish this project, in particular, great success.

19. Before I conclude, I should like to refer to some of the important development projects assisted by the Colombo Plan, which have brought prosperity to many thousands in my country. The mighty Gal Oya Project, Sri Lanka's first multi-purpose reservoir was completed in the 1950s with the assistance of the Colombo Plan. The success of this project transformed the Eastern Province of this country. The Maskeliya Oya Project, the Minneriya-Kantale Yoda Ela Project and the Polgolla Dam Project were among the other irrigation projects implemented with the assistance of the Colombo Plan. The Dental Nurses' School in Maharagama, established with assistance from the Colombo Plan, facilitated training in New Zealand for the first batch of dental nurses from my country. Among the other training and research institutes, which have received assistance from the Colombo Plan, are the School of Practical Technology in Katubedde, the Hardy Technical Training Institute in Gal Oya, the Fisheries Training Centre in Negombo and the University of Peradeniya. The Colombo Plan has also helped Sri Lanka to develop its international airport. Sri Lanka has also received assistance to upgrade and modernize its transport infrastructure, especially its railways.

20. It is encouraging to note that the member states display a keen interest in the activities of the Colombo Plan and contribute significantly towards its success. Furthermore, some members who were initially recipients of Colombo Plan assistance have now become donors, reflecting the ongoing transformation of the region and the success of this organization.

21. The Colombo Plan has, during its fifty years of existence, achieved many of its goals. Its success in the future will depend on its capacity to adapt to the changing development requirements of Asia and the Pacific, the diversification of its activities and the generation of innovative solutions to the urgent problems of the region.

22. I take this opportunity to wish the Colombo Plan all success in its future endeavours. I also wish the 38th Consultative Committee Meeting success in its deliberations. I am confident that the outcome of this meeting will strengthen the Colombo Plan and carve out for it a significant role in meeting the exciting challenges of, and using the immense opportunities that abound in the modern era. We must always remember that the Colombo Plan was designed for the peoples of this great region of the world. It is to the people that it owes a duty and responsibility. It is accountable to the people. It must continue to serve the people.

I thank you.

**Address by Dr. U. Sarat Chandran,
Secretary-General, Colombo Plan Secretariat**

Honourable Prime Minister, Mr. Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka,
Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Lakshman Kadirgamar,
Honourable Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Mr. Nimal Siripala de Silva,
Secretary-General of the 38th CCM, Mr. V. K. Nanayakara,
President of the Colombo Plan Council, Ambassador Mohammad Saleh of Indonesia,
Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. The Colombo Plan is deeply honoured that the Honourable Prime Minister in spite of his very busy schedule could grace this momentous and memorable occasion for the Colombo Plan – its 50th anniversary commemorative meeting. Let me at the outset extend a very warm welcome to the Honourable Prime Minister and to all of you to this historic commemorative meeting and the inauguration of the 38th CCM of the Colombo Plan.

2. It is with a sense of great pride and deep humility that I stand before you. A sense of pride because I am fortunate to head this organization in its 50th year, an organization with great tradition, great history, and above all great élan. A sense of humility because it is an enormous responsibility that has been placed on the organization to carry forward its wonderful achievements of the past, into the 21st century.

3. It is often been said that mortals like us can see the distant horizon because we stand on the shoulders of giants. Men and women of great ideas and stupendous vision who lived before us. This can be truly said of the Colombo Plan and its founding leaders. It was out of the sagacity and wisdom of the world leaders who participated at the international conference in Colombo in 1950 that this great idea of the Colombo Plan was born. The world leaders included Percy Spender of Australia, Lester Pearson of Canada, Pandit Nehru of India, Ghulam Mohammed of Pakistan, Frederick Doidge of New Zealand, D. S. Senanayake and J.R. Jayawardene of Sri Lanka, and Ernest Bevin of the U.K. It was indeed Australia and Sri Lanka which first suggested the idea of establishing the Colombo Plan at the 1950 Conference.

4. In a way this organization was ahead of its times in terms of the ideas it proposed when it was set up fifty years ago. The founding fathers delineated two themes, which underlie all Colombo Plan programmes. One is that of human capital as the key to unlock the door to prosperity of nations. Another idea was to consider all countries as partners in development; the idea of countries helping themselves and each other in the quest for increasing the welfare of peoples. Indeed the two themes first articulated by the Colombo Plan later find echo in the development initiatives of other organizations both regionally and internationally.

5. The contribution of the Colombo Plan in the development process of member countries has been truly amazing. Whether it be the Gal-Oya project in Sri Lanka, or the Pokra Dam in Nepal, or the Yan Hee project in Thailand, or the Ulan Institute of Technology in Korea, or the Warsak Project in Pakistan, or the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in India, the list is unending and covers all the developing countries of the Colombo Plan region. The bottom line is that the Colombo Plan has left its indelible mark in the economic progress of member countries. There was a time in the 50s, the 60s and the 70s when the Colombo Plan fellowship programme was one of the few programmes available for professionals from developing countries of the region to get advanced degrees and higher training in developed countries. In fact for many the Colombo Plan is synonymous with its scholarship programme. The alumni of the Colombo Plan is the largest for any inter-governmental organization. The number of trained people under various programmes of the Colombo Plan is over three hundred thousand. This provides a huge reservoir of human capital on which the countries can build upon. It is highly gratifying to note that countries which joined the Colombo Plan in the 50s, and the 60s as developing economies have transformed themselves into high growth and high income countries. The high priority given to human resource development over the years in several of the Colombo Plan member countries has helped them position themselves to tap into the enormous possibilities for faster economic and social development. Much of the groundwork for enabling countries of the region to benefit from the new knowledge economy was laid over the years by the Colombo Plan. The most gratifying aspect of the Colombo Plan is that those very countries, which benefited the various programmes of the Colombo Plan are giving their expertise to other member countries where the process of development is still gaining strength, in true spirit of South-South Cooperation which is the hallmark of the Colombo Plan.

6. The success of any inter-governmental organization depends on the support it receives from its member governments. I must say that the Colombo Plan has received that support in large measure. Indeed all twenty-four member countries of the Colombo Plan have been contributing in some measure to the organization as they take back something in the true spirit of partnership. I would like to add that much of the success that the Colombo Plan has had in the past as well as in the present has been through the wonderful support, encouragement, and guidance the organization has been receiving from the host government – the Government of Sri Lanka. I would like on behalf of the Colombo Plan to convey our deep appreciation to the Government of Sri Lanka for its support. Shortly the Honourable Prime Minister will be releasing the Colombo Plan souvenir, which I had a preview, and which contains the messages of heads of governments of member countries. I must say that each of the messages is a very bold statement of support and a vision for the future which will guide the organization in the years to come.

7. The Colombo Plan has not only had a glorious past but also has a vibrant present. Quite apart from its regular programmes, the Colombo Plan, has embarked on several new initiatives in the recent past. One among them is the Colombo Plan Africa initiative, under which the development experience of the Colombo Plan region is shared with African countries. It was really heartening to hear delegate after delegate who participated in some of the recent programmes conducted under this initiative say that what Africa needs is an organization like the Colombo Plan which can mobilize the creative energies of nations in finding solutions to the difficult social and economic issues facing Africa. Another initiative has been the forging of a partnership with the private sector in matters of economic and social development, human capital development and

**Address by Dr. U. Sarat Chandran,
Secretary-General, Colombo Plan Secretariat**

Honourable Prime Minister, Mr. Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka,
Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Lakshman Kadirgamar,
Honourable Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Mr. Nimal Siripala de Silva,
Secretary-General of the 38th CCM, Mr. V. K. Nanayakara,
President of the Colombo Plan Council, Ambassador Mohammad Saleh of Indonesia,
Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,
Excellencies,
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South-South Cooperation. Other initiatives include forging closer synergies with non-member governments, and inter-governmental organizations in adding value to the programmes of the Colombo Plan.

8. The achievements of the Colombo Plan in economic and social spheres have been far reaching. However, the Colombo Plan has made an equally great contribution to the evolution of an unique international organization. The edifying spirit of cooperation and conviviality that pervades all the deliberative forums of the Colombo Plan whether it be the Consultative Committee or the Colombo Plan Council, is something which distinguishes the Colombo Plan from other inter-governmental organizations. That rich legacy is something treasured by all member countries. It is one organization where member countries rise above individual differences in finding solutions to tough economic and social problems that face the peoples of the region.

9. As I said before Colombo Plan is an organization with a great past, a vibrant present and a bright future. The Colombo Plan not only concerns itself with the economic and social issues of member countries. It goes much beyond that. It is an organization, which strives to release the creative energies of peoples of member countries to bring out the best in them in making the world a better place to live in. It is an organization, which strives for excellence in its activities as exemplified in the flame of creativity in its emblem. It is an organization, which strives for the prosperity of peoples of all nations in the Colombo Plan region through cooperation and sharing of experience. Fifty years ago, world leaders from seven Commonwealth countries met in Colombo in a historic building – the Senate Building of – which there is a photograph in the souvenir. It is only fitting and proper that the fiftieth anniversary commemorative meeting is being held in another historic building – the old Parliament of Sri Lanka, and this will be remembered for a long time.

10. Ladies and Gentlemen may I once again on behalf of the Colombo Plan and my personal behalf extend to each one of you a very warm welcome to the 50th anniversary commemorative meeting and the inauguration of the 38th CCM of the Colombo Plan.

God Bless the Colombo Plan.

Thank you very much indeed.

**Address by Mr. V. K. Nanayakkara,
Secretary-General, 38th Consultative Committee Meeting**

Honourable Prime Minister,
Honourable Ministers,
Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps
Distinguished Delegates and Observers,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. I am honoured to appear before you today in the capacity of the Secretary-General of the 38th Consultative Committee Meeting of the Colombo Plan. On behalf of the host country, the Government of Sri Lanka, it is my great pleasure and privilege to welcome you today, to the 50 year commemorative ceremony and the inauguration of the 38th Consultative Committee Meeting. On this unique occasion, please permit me to welcome again the distinguished personalities on the rostrum. In particular, let me express our gratitude to our Chief Guest, the Honourable Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, for his historic presence. May I also express my gratitude to the Honourable Lakshman Kadirgamar, Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, the Honourable D. M. Jayaratne, Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable A. H. M. Fowzie, Minister of Highways, the Honourable Alavi Mowlana, Minister of Labour, the Honourable Dinesh Gunawardena, Minister of Transport and the Honourable Abdul Majeed, Deputy Minister of Posts and Telecommunications. Their participation records for posterity this important landmark of the Colombo Plan, its Golden Anniversary.

2. I also welcome the distinguished delegates, many of whom have travelled great distances to be here. We are very glad that representatives of member governments are with us in Colombo. We are particularly glad that we have a number of representatives of multilateral and bilateral external support agencies, and of international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) who share with us our common development concerns.

The Beginning

3. We are proud of the fact that the Colombo Plan is fifty years old today. It has roots deep in history. The idea of the Colombo Plan was born in the post-colonial quest for socio-economic development in South and South-East Asia. Indeed, it is not only opportune but also fortuitous for Sri Lanka, the land of its birth, that it has the honour of playing host to the 38th Consultative Committee Meeting, which coincides with the fiftieth anniversary.

4. What were the dreams of the founding fathers half a century ago? Let me quote the Honourable P.C. Spender, Minister for External Affairs and Leader of the Australian Delegation who summed up the mood of the nations in the early fifties at the Sydney Conference on 15 May 1950.

"With reference to the recommendation of the Colombo Conference relating to proposals for economic development of the area, we must, I believe, keep in mind that such proposals will require the support and co-operation of other countries and of any international bodies which may be in a position to assist. On the other hand, it is essential that the programme should not be something imposed from outside upon the countries of the area. It should be based upon the national plans of each such country and it should provide for the greatest feasible degree of mutual assistance within the area."

5. Permit me also to quote Shri Ramaswami Mudaliar, Leader of the Indian delegation who echoed the sentiments prevalent in 1950.

"We are observing the same phenomenon in South and South-East Asia. If these areas containing a thousand million people already on a low level according to western standards of living are to be left to themselves or allowed to lower their standards, not only will they themselves suffer and cause untold difficulties in those areas but inevitably, logically and naturally it will lead to confusion elsewhere in countries which are now prosperous and drag them down to the same level. It is from that point of view that my Government and my people consider the problem of economic development in these areas of South-East Asia."

The Activities and Themes

6. Thereafter, the Colombo Plan has come a long way, adding new members and learning a great deal from one another. During the fifty years of its operation, it has made a lasting impression on the member communities through the translation of the Colombo resolutions of June 1950 into constructive plans and programmes. Currently, its programmes focus on Public Administration, Private Sector Development and Drug Advisory activities.

7. The Colombo Plan is at a defining moment in its history. It meets today, in its fiftieth year, for its 38th Consultative Committee Meeting, to discuss two special issues which have been selected in view of their current concerns and relevance to member countries. The first theme "Knowledge: The Key to Faster Growth of Member Countries in the 21st Century" is particularly relevant at this time.

8. The new millenium into which we just entered is the era of information which is knowledge-based. Knowledge enables communities to access global trends, become informed and acquire both skills and know-how. The poor have to enhance their skills to upgrade the quality of their outputs to become competitive in a globalized world.

9. In the knowledge society, education is both the mechanism of mobility and of security, where the majority of people make their living as employees. It is a society that necessarily operates on the flow of information. The productivity of the newly dominant groups in the work force, the knowledge workers and the service workers, will be the biggest and toughest challenge facing managers in the member countries, for decades to come.

10. By "Planning Prosperity Together", can the member countries ensure that the people have lifelong opportunities to acquire the knowledge, values and practical skills to break away from the

poverty trap and raise their standards of living? Can it create the human capital to exert greater control over the direction of development ?

11. An equally relevant second theme is titled: "The Role of Regional Organizations in Combating Drug Abuse with Special Reference to the Colombo Plan". The problem of drug abuse is global in nature and critical in the Asia-Pacific region. The Drug Advisory Programme has played a pioneering role in region-wide response to the drug problem. It implements a series of programmes in enhancing life skills in drug abuse prevention.

Future Directions

12. The 38th Consultative Committee Meeting, which marks fifty years of the organization, is an occasion for deliberation whether the aims, aspirations and strategies of the original framers of the organization stood the test of time. In the backdrop of the later developments in the international aid scenario, can the Colombo Plan's primary objectives of South-South Co-operation and human resource development in the Asia-Pacific region continue to remain valid. It does not have a monopoly on human resources development nor does it pretend to have all the answers needed for the complex and difficult problems which member governments face. It can remain relevant and vibrant today only if it can chart a promising path for sustainable human development of member governments in the Asia-Pacific region.

13. In order to consider broader ways of moving forward, the programme direction of the Colombo Plan has undergone change from a co-ordinator/facilitator role in technical assistance to a leadership role in sharing the development experiences of one another. At this meeting we may deliberate on our current thoughts on how to proceed. Over the next three days, we shall be deliberating intensely to develop an approach for building the Colombo Plan and to develop our Action Plans further. That could provide a powerful impetus for moving the agenda forward. We believe that the spirit of the Colombo Plan – of assisting and co-operating with one another – is embedded in all of us. Thus, the collective and concerted action of the member governments, continue to remain its dominant force, to bring forth far-reaching changes in the socio-economic environment in the region. I believe the 38th Consultative Committee Meeting has a role to play in this general reform process which is an opportunity to renew our commitment to the ideals of the Colombo Plan and the common task of co-operation and economic development.

Thank you.

Vote of Thanks by H. E. Mohammad Saleh, President, Colombo Plan Council

Honourable Prime Minister, Mr Ratnasiri Wickremanayake
Honourable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. It is indeed a great pleasure for me to be associated with the 50th anniversary celebrations and the inaugural ceremony of the 38th Consultative Committee Meeting of the Colombo Plan this morning under the distinguished patronage of the Honourable Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. It is a happy augury that these two meetings are being held in Sri Lanka as Sri Lanka was one of seven countries which was represented at the meeting of the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers where the Colombo Plan idea was born. It is indeed very gracious of the Government of Sri Lanka to host today's 38th Consultative Committee Meeting, in conjunction with the 50th anniversary, having hosted the 36th Consultative Committee Meeting in 1996 as well as the 25th Consultative Committee Meeting in 1975.
2. On behalf of all the delegations present to day, I express my profound gratitude to the Honourable Prime Minister for your gracious presence here this morning. We appreciate the honour you have bestowed on us, that, in spite of your heavy schedule you found the time to be with us on this significant occasion. Your presence here testifies, beyond any doubt, the importance the Government of Sri Lanka attaches to the Colombo Plan today as was fifty years ago.
3. Honourable Prime Minister, in your inaugural address you referred to the development of human resources to face the new challenges posed by globalisation, more importantly, those concerned with knowledge based activities such as information technology and e-commerce. Honourable Prime Minister, I as the President of the Council, am happy to say that the Colombo Plan Secretariat has already taken steps in incorporating these new developments in their programmes as from last year. The capacity to generate, acquire, disseminate and utilize scientific and technological knowledge, both modern and traditional, will play a critical role in future development. The presence or absence of this capacity would constitute the crucial distinction between developed and developing nations – between those parts of the world in which individuals have the potential to decide and to act with autonomy, and those in which human beings are not yet empowered to realize fully their potential.
4. In spite of the vast changes that have taken place over the last fifty years, and what is taking place now around the world, the Colombo Plan has steadfastly and successfully remained in pursuit of excellence in technical cooperation and human resource development.

5. On behalf of the Colombo Plan I express our deep appreciation to the Government of Sri Lanka for its warm and traditional hospitality rendered to all of us, the Colombo Plan members, and for hosting the Colombo Plan Secretariat since its inception.

6. I wish to conclude, Honourable Prime Minister, by thanking you, the Government of Sri Lanka and her people, once again, for the kind hospitality and welcome extended to all the delegates attending the 38th Consultative Committee Meeting and 50th Anniversary Commemorative Meeting of the Colombo Plan.

Thank you.

38th CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA

A. Formalities and Procedural Matters

Registration of Delegates

1. Welcome Address by the Secretary-General
2. Announcements and Working Arrangements
3. Election of Chairman
4. Chairman's Acceptance Speech
5. Election of Deputy Chairman
6. Appointment of Drafting Committee
7. Recognition of Observers
8. Adoption of the Agenda

B. Country Statements on the Occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Colombo Plan

C. Technical Co-operation and Matters Concerning the Colombo Plan Region

9. The international development context
Statement by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
10. The regional picture
Statement by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)
11. Technical Co-operation
Importance of south-south co-operation in development and linkages between bilateral technical co-operation programmes of member countries and multilateral programmes of the Colombo Plan
12. Country presentations of bilateral technical co-operation programmes for the years 1998/1999 and 1999/2000

13. Special Issue I:

Knowledge: the key to faster growth of member countries in the 21st Century – the role of the Colombo Plan

Special Issue II:

The role of regional organisations in combating drug abuse – with special reference to the Colombo Plan

D. Colombo Plan Activities

14. Report of the Secretary-General, Colombo Plan Secretariat
15. Proposed amendments to the Colombo Plan Constitution
16. Annual Reports of the Colombo Plan to the Consultative Committee
17. Annual Reports of the Governing Board of the Colombo Plan Staff College for Technician Education to the Consultative Committee
18. The Colombo Declaration
19. Date and venue of the next Consultative Committee Meeting
20. Any Other Business

E. Statements by Observers

F. Concluding Session

21. Approval of the Record of Conclusions
22. Closing of the 38th Consultative Committee Meeting

The International Development Context
Statement by Ms. Rekha Thapa
Resident Representative a.i.
United Nations Development Programme, Colombo

1. It's a great honour and privilege to attend the 38th Consultative Committee Meeting of the Colombo Plan, especially as the Colombo Plan this year is celebrating its 50 years of contribution to development. While thanking the organization for inviting me to make a presentation on the UNDP's role in the international development context, I also hope this will contribute to your deliberations on technical cooperation.

2. Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the UN when participating at the Millenium Summit in September 2000, attended by 188 member state representatives, pointed out that "although globalization generates large number of benefits, certain Governments and groups oppose globalization, due to the disparities it has generated, where only a small number of countries reap most of its benefits. To capture promises of globaliazation while managing its adverse effects, we must learn to govern *better* and we must learn how better to govern *together*". The Millenium Summit, endorsing these sentiments in the final declaration, committed to halve global poverty and hunger by 2015, and declared to promote democracy and strengthen the rule of law, as well as to respect all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development. It is important to note that multilateral organizations have now included these goals and modalities in their own operational frameworks, and bilateral donors are doing the same. As a result, the development cooperation community now has a common strategic approach based on partnership building for poverty reduction. This scenario contrasts sharply with that of major controversies over goals and approaches, which was dominant in recent decades and indeed until quite recently (DAC 1999 – DCR 2000). The Development Assistance Committee's (DAC) information network on poverty reduction (1999) reports however that although almost all of the development agencies have identified poverty reduction as a key goal, there is still much to be done to translate these commitments into action.

3. The Global Poverty Report (G8 – Okinawa Summit 2000) notes that although the proportion of the world's population living in poverty has declined by 3 % – from 29% in 1987 to 26% in 1998 – when taking into account the world population growth the total number of poor has remained almost unchanged at around 1.2 billion – subsisting on the equivalent of less than a dollar a day. We must however always remember that poverty is much more than just a lack of money: it is a denial of rights, of opportunities, of hope for the future. And it bears many faces.

4. UNDP's own Poverty Report 2000 notes that human poverty remains pervasive, persistent and sharply on the increase in some countries, particularly those affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. 34 million people world wide are living with HIV/AIDS, mostly in developing countries, and this factor alone is contributing to *creating* poverty, and intensifying *existing* poverty, as well as drastically cutting short people's lives. The UNDP Poverty Report 2000 also highlights the growing digital divide between developed and developing countries. Developing countries have been largely left behind by the revolutionary changes in information and communication technologies.

5. In addition, environmental degradation is taking place unabated in many countries due to natural causes, as well as human interference and neglect, resulting in unsustainable development. This further contributes to exacerbating poverty, as the most vulnerable groups in society tend to be the worst affected. Finally, in a number of countries, these challenges are compounded by civil unrest and internal conflicts, resulting in severe erosion of quality of life, including the enjoyment of civil liberties and rights, as well as the right to development.

6. Taking into account the foregoing challenges the aim to halving poverty by 2015, may to some not seem possible. However, the Global Poverty Report (G8 – Okinawa Summit 2000) argues that if growth rates in per capita consumption for each region reach between 1-5%, and there is no increase in inequality, this target can even be realized by year 2008. Although these statistics may seem a little too optimistic given the enormous challenges, the UNDP Administrator, Mr. Mark Malloch Brown believes that with the right combination of global and national policies, together with sustained political will, we can make it happen.

7. Mr. Malloch Brown's belief draws attention to the whole area of governance; the policies and practices of international trade and development assistance, as well as national level commitments and mechanisms for creating a healthy political and economic environment. The international and national practices of governance will determine our ability to effectively eradicate poverty. UNDP has realised this, and has identified several current trends taking place globally, that have implications for our ability to achieve this goal within the set time frame. These trends include:

8. Firstly, development assistance globally is dwindling, from which UNDP is not immune, – and organizations such as the World Bank and ADB have diversified to areas traditionally the domain of UNDP. There is an emerging need to build strategic partnerships to achieve results.

9. Secondly, globalization is presenting us with a new set of challenges: trade regimes, regional groupings etc. Many countries lack political and economic capacity to successfully engage in the global economy.

10. Thirdly, there is a growing role for private international and domestic capital. Levels of private capital flows (though skewed to a few countries) are overshadowing official development assistance.

11. Lastly, globalization is spreading new technologies, which – if tackled strategically – can impart a powerful new dimension to international development cooperation, enabling it to deliver assistance faster and cheaper, and to connect poor populations in remote areas to the economic mainstream.

12. Taking all these into consideration UNDP has directed its policies and procedures in meeting the challenge of halving poverty by year 2015 towards giving due consideration to the role of good governance. This has resulted in a corporate policy to move upstream, providing support to policy and institutional capacity building. As the UNDP Administrator argues, within a global context "...UNDP (needs) to focus its activities on helping countries develop the right policies and right institutions that will allow them to manage their successful integration into the global economy". (Administrator's speech to SIDA, NY Chapter, 16th Feb. 2000)

13. This new corporate policy of UNDP is outlined in the Administrator's Business Plans which was approved by the Executive Board in January 2000. New direction of UNDP received widespread endorsement at the Ministerial Meeting on UNDP which took place on 11 September 2000, immediately after the Millennium Summit, with the participation of Ministers and representatives from 65 countries.

14. Thus the goal of poverty reduction is still at the centre of UNDP's mission, and six key areas impacting on poverty have been identified as UNDP's focus of work:

- Democratic Governance
- Support to Pro-Poor Policies
- Crisis Prevention and Recovery
- Environment and Sustainable Energy
- Information and Communications Technology
- Non-health dimensions of HIV/AIDS

15. While refocusing to work more upstream towards policy support, UNDP believes that to have the greatest impact as a neutral and trusted partner of the Government, there is also an important advocacy role to be played on critical issues related to human development. The annual Human Development Report, published since 1990, continues to remain a powerful advocacy tool for UNDP.

16. The traditional UNDP role has been in the business of technical cooperation with a mandate for capacity building and institutional strengthening. Over the years UNDP has expanded its role in Technical Cooperation to include provision of technical and managerial advice, training of personnel for human resource development, and sharing of knowledge and experiences.

17. Within the above framework UNDP found that it could cooperate with the Colombo Plan partners at different levels, some of which are:

- South-South cooperation;
- Regional and Inter-regional cooperation frameworks of UNDP; and
- Mobilization of resources (people and funds), in meeting common goals.

18. I would like to elaborate some of these in the context of the Colombo Plan's activities. We do note that the Colombo Plan has been constantly reviewing and modifying its projects/programmes to respond to the changing needs of its member countries, currently focussing on three areas:

- Private sector development;
- Drug advisory programme; and
- Public administration

19. I can see direct synergies between your private sector development programme, especially in the areas of small and medium enterprises, and our initiatives where we have made inroads in getting the private sector involved in our poverty reduction programmes. I have no doubts that your inputs in enabling SME owners/managers of the developing countries to be more competitive in the

international markets is a deciding factor for the success of our programmes with the private sector as well.

20. Also we see a direct relationship between your programme for public administration and our programme for good governance. Over the last few years we have been working very closely with institutions in Sri Lanka such as SLIDA, the Finance Commission, the Legal Draftsman Department and Provincial Councils in enhancing their capacity in areas related to good governance and devolution of power.

21. Hence we believe, that not only are there areas within the two organizations that complement each other, but there is also room for collaboration as well. The new UNDP places great importance to collaboration with partners. This is not only because of our realization that partnerships lead to synergy and efficiencies in *outputs*, but mainly because we now know that strategic partnerships are essential to achieve the results – *outcomes* and *impacts* that we aspire to jointly.

22. South-South Cooperation is an area which is advocated both by the Colombo Plan and UNDP. In the most recent issue of "Cooperation South" (2000), the UNDP Administrator clearly indicates that South-South cooperation will inevitably be an immensely valuable resource for developing countries, in its efforts to meet challenges in our poverty reduction work. UNDP promotes South-South cooperation through its TCDC (Technical cooperation among developing countries) programme, which is very similar to the training programmes Colombo Plan implements. Hence, I believe this is an important area in which our organizations can collaborate.

23. In addition to the national level Country Cooperation Framework (CCF), UNDP also has a Regional Cooperation Framework (RCF) which identifies areas of support common to a region as a whole. The RCF (2002-2006) corresponds with the priority areas identified under the CCF, and has outlined its focus areas as:

- Democratic governance and human development;
- Environmental sustainability; and
- Globalization and economic policy.

24. I am glad to note that especially the theme of democratic governance is very much in line with the Colombo Plan programme on public administration. The important aspect to note is that governance has been identified as a key area that needs improvement for most of the developing countries, and organisations such as the Colombo Plan and UNDP have been able to focus their programmes accordingly.

25. In closing, I would like to leave you with two quotes, stated thirty-five years apart. Thirty-five years ago, the then Secretary General, U Thant stated that **"in establishing a new United Nations Development Programme, the General Assembly moved to put our world organization in the very front line of the global war of want."** Thirty-five years later, the Administrator of UNDP delivered a similar message, giving it a twist to reflect the times – **"We need new weapons because it is a new battlefield; but it is an old war: the fight against poverty."**

26. I would like to close by thanking the Colombo Plan for giving me this opportunity. I look forward to greater co-operation between us.

**The Regional Picture
Statement by Mr. Kim Hak-Su
Under Secretary-General, United Nations
and
Executive Secretary
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Ministers

Dr. U. Sarat Chandran, Secretary-General of the Colombo Plan

Excellencies, Distinguished Representatives

Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. I am extremely pleased to participate in the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Colombo Plan. I had the honour and privilege of serving as Secretary-General of the Colombo Plan from 1995 to 1999, and am very proud of the achievements of this organization to which I also made some modest contributions. I am here today not only as Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) but also as a former colleague.

2. As you are aware, ESCAP is a regional arm of the United Nations in Asia and the Pacific, with 61 member and associate member countries/territories. I am pleased to note that all the member countries of the Colombo Plan are also members of ESCAP. Moreover, the main objective of both ESCAP and the Colombo Plan is to promote economic and social development of its membership. This commonality of membership and objectives means that both organizations are dealing with similar development issues. Therefore, the sharing of views and perspectives with each other can reinforce the positive impact of efforts and activities of both organizations for their member countries.

3. The ESCAP region as a whole, particularly its East and South-East Asia sub-regions, enjoyed uninterrupted high economic growth over more than two decades prior to 1997. As we all know, the regional economic crisis starting in 1997 pushed down GDP growth rates generally, making them negative in countries directly affected by the crisis. The economic recovery began in 1999 and further strengthened in 2000. However, due to slackening of the US economy, the further slowdown of the Japanese economy, volatile financial markets and oil prices, developing economies of the ESCAP region as a whole are expected to grow at a lower rate in 2001 than in the previous year. The GDP growth forecast for 2001 prepared by ESCAP towards the end of 2000 and included in this year's Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific showed a decline of about 1 per cent for developing economies of the region compared to 2000. However, due to the continuing deterioration in external environment, our latest forecast suggests that the decline in GDP growth will be more than 2 per cent in 2001 as compared to more than 7 percent in 2000. The major short-term macro-economic challenge now for developing economies is how to stop this slowdown against an adverse external environment.

4. The economic slowdown not only creates its own immediate adverse consequences, but makes it harder to tackle long-term development issues and concerns. Absolute poverty is one such long-term problem being faced by many developing countries in the region. Based on a global poverty line of \$1 a day per capita, more than two-thirds of the world poor live in Asia and the Pacific. Roughly one out of every four persons is suffering from this extreme poverty in the region. The United Nations Millennium Summit Declaration reaffirmed the commitment of the international community to halve extreme poverty by 2015. What are the prospects for achieving that target? While the incidence of poverty has been coming down in the region over time; more rapidly in East and South – East Asia than in South Asia, World Bank estimates show that between 1990 and 1998 poverty declined at an average rate of 1.7 per cent per year, which is below the rate required to reach the 2015 target. The economic crisis reversed some of the gains in poverty alleviation in directly affected countries. The present economic slowdown will make it even harder for the countries to sustain their successes in poverty alleviation. Therefore, a continuing challenge for most developing countries is not only to reduce poverty but sustain their successes achieved in the past.

5. Globalization, while creating opportunities for rapid economic growth is also posing serious challenges. Developing countries are being increasingly marginalized through the process of globalization and liberalization. Therefore, it is important to ensure that benefits of globalization are equitably spread among and within countries. The major challenge for developing countries today is how to manage globalization and integration by designing and adopting appropriate set of policies to ensure that a country can seize the new opportunities created by globalization while minimizing the inevitable costs.

6. Some emerging social issues and problems such as rapidly spreading HIV/AIDS, drug abuse, the rising share of older population and growing migration within and among countries are adding to the challenges of the developing countries. Though the HIV/AIDS epidemic entered most parts of the ESCAP region later than in other regions of the world, its spread has been rapid. In 2000, about 6.7 million adults and children were living with HIV/AIDS, or 19 per cent of the world total, were in the ESCAP region. New HIV infections in 2000 in the region were about 1 million, representing an annual growth of nearly 15 per cent. If the spread of this disease is not controlled effectively, it will have serious socio-economic implications, particularly because the disease is concentrated among individuals in their prime productive age.

7. After joining ESCAP about a year ago, it has been my constant effort to enhance the positive impact of ESCAP's work for its member countries. The 57th session of the Commission held in April 2001 endorsed my efforts to refocus and reprioritize work of ESCAP in three broad areas, namely poverty alleviation, managing globalization and emerging social issues. A reallocation of both human and financial resources to these priority areas will be completed by the end of this year through a major re-engineering exercise.

8. Along with these initiatives, I am pleased to inform you that ESCAP and UNDP are actively considering the joint establishment of a Poverty Alleviation Centre or Unit from early next year. The Centre, to be a part of ESCAP, will function as a regional think tank on poverty alleviation. It will monitor, measure and analyze the incidence of poverty in Asia and the Pacific. It will also monitor progress on the implementation of other international development goals. The Centre will

provide a diagnostic view on policy issues related to poverty and poverty reduction strategies. One of the major activities of the Centre will be to publish a report on the state of poverty in Asia and the Pacific, with the first report expected to be issued by the end of 2002. No such report is published for this region at present. The Centre will network with other agencies and institutions involved in poverty alleviation and also will coordinate poverty-related work of various divisions of ESCAP. I hope that the establishment of the Poverty Alleviation Centre will strengthen ESCAP's work in the area of poverty alleviation. This, in turn, will support countries in their fight against poverty.

9. As I mentioned earlier, both ESCAP and Colombo Plan are striving for the cause of developing countries. Therefore, cooperation between the two organizations will add to the positive impact of their activities for the benefit of their common membership. ESCAP has and will continue to emphasize the promotion of TCDC and ECDC within its technical cooperation programme. In this connection, ESCAP will take steps to operationalize some of the provisions in the Memorandum of Understanding signed between ESCAP and the Colombo Plan in 1995. More specifically, ESCAP will work towards the signing of a MOU on Third Country Training Programme with the Colombo Plan, aimed at implementing technical cooperation activities relating to human resources development on a cost sharing basis.

10. Some cooperation is already taking place between our two organizations. I note that ESCAP and the Colombo Plan are considering to jointly organize in February 2002 a regional training workshop for public administration personnel on the rights of disabled persons to full participation and equality in the development process. Similar discussions are going on among ESCAP, the Colombo Plan and UNCTAD to jointly organize a seminar on issues of concerns to developing countries prior to the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference to be held in Doha, Qatar in November 2001.

11. I am pleased to inform you that ESCAP plans to convene a regional intergovernmental high-level meeting on progress on the regional implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP region during 19-21 November 2001. The meeting will provide an opportunity for ministers, senior policy makers, the private sector, NGOs and other members of civil society to assess the progress achieved, and new challenges faced towards attainment of poverty alleviation, social integration and employment expansion. ESCAP would welcome the collaboration of the Colombo Plan in the organization of this important intergovernmental meeting.

12. As I recall one of the objectives of the Colombo Plan is to assist in the sharing and transfer of technology among member countries. ESCAP, through its regional organization, the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT), will continue to be a strong player on the technology scene. The APCTT works directly with the business sector on technology transfer agreements, technology sourcing and technological information dissemination. Our two organizations can collaborate in the area of technology transfer.

13. Another important objective of the Colombo Plan is to assist the least developed countries of the region in their effort of economic and social development. In this regard, I would like to

assure you that ESCAP shares this common objective. The recently held Third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries in Brussels, which I, personally attended, adopted a comprehensive Programme of Action for LDCs for the decade 2001-2010. Both ESCAP and the Colombo Plan can cooperate in assisting the LDCs in implementation of the Programme of Action. Moreover, ESCAP is willing to consider facilitating participation of LDCs and Pacific island developing countries, members of the Colombo Plan, in TCD training activities organized by the Colombo Plan, by meeting the cost of the participants' air travel.

14. Let me conclude with the hope that fruitful cooperation between our two organizations will further strengthen in the future for the benefit of our common membership.

Thank you.

Importance of South-South Co-operation in Development and Linkages between Bilateral Technical Co-operation Programmes of Member Countries and Multilateral Programmes of the Colombo Plan

Background paper prepared by the Colombo Plan Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. While the concept of South-South Co-operation is well known, its value as an effective tool for collective economic self reliance of the developing countries is receiving increasing recognition. The process of decolonisation during the last century had a profound political, economic and psychological impact on newly independent countries and acted as a strong stimulus to South-South Co-operation. After the achievement of independence, issues of accelerated economic and social development came to the fore of the policy making agenda of countries. At the early stages, many developing nations found themselves short of trained professionals, experienced administrators, skilled technicians, physical infrastructure and financial resources. The developing countries also realised that technology transfer from the developed countries had to be adapted to meet their specific requirements and there was a general recognition of the need to make the fullest use of the capacities, skills and resources of the developing countries. Moreover, as the external resources available for development started declining in real terms, the developing countries began searching for innovative and cost-effective technical co-operation modalities including their own capacities and potential to help one another. Over the last two decades, the process of globalization has led to growth in international trade and investment accompanied by rapid advances in information technology, communications and transport networks. Some developing countries have oriented their development strategies so as to benefit from the vast opportunities created by the world trading system and globalization. In the changed global economic environment South-South Cooperation is being increasingly seen as an effective instrument for national capacity building, which could provide impetus to faster growth.

2. The Colombo Plan (CP), which was established in 1951 as an inter-governmental organisation for cooperative economic and social development of member countries was one of the earliest regional organisations to recognise the importance of South-South Co-operation in forging the concept of self-help and mutual help in the development process of countries. The African-Asian Meeting held in Bandung, in 1955, also recognised the importance of co-operation among countries to meet the challenges of development. The emergence of the Non-Aligned Movement in 1961 and of the Group of 77 in 1964 accelerated the developing countries' drive for collective self reliance. The United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation Among Developing Countries held in Buenos Aires in 1978 also emphasised the need for cooperative self help. It not only provided basic guidelines for promoting South-South Co-operation but it also reflected the change that had taken place in the international debate, and the developing countries' new awareness of their strengths and their role in the comity of nations.

3. The Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resource Development in the ESCAP Region (1994) identified three inter-dependent components of human resource development:

- i. investment in human resources to enhance productive capabilities;
- ii. utilization of those human resources to produce increased outputs; and
- iii. consumption of the resulting outputs to improve quality of life.

4. Therefore viewed holistically, human resource development goes beyond mere skills development and includes other social dimensions such as education, health care, housing, employment etc., with the ultimate goal of alleviating poverty and improving the quality of life. However, the issue of skills development is paramount as only through the development of adequate skills will people be able to use them to generate income for themselves and for the society as a whole.

II. Overview of Existing Member Countries' Technical Co-operation Programmes and New Challenges for Human Resource Development

Member Countries – Bilateral Technical Co-operation Programmes

5. Among the Colombo Plan member countries there are several countries which have developed strong bilateral technical co-operation programmes which could play a leading role in the field of human resource development in the region. The Secretariat in its publication *South-South Technical Co-operation : Selected Member Countries, December 1997* had outlined the bilateral technical co-operation programmes of some of the member countries including India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. These countries have allocated resources not only from their UNDP country IPF (Indicative Planning Figure) to finance South-South Technical Co-operation activities, but also sufficient amounts have been provided in their respective national budgets for the promotion of such activities. Where the countries lack resources, *Third Country* financing modality has been extensively used. This *shared cooperation* has played a vital role in the human resource development efforts of the countries. Each of the above countries is operating concurrently more than one technical co-operation programme designed to achieve specific objectives. Third Country Training and TCDC (Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries) programmes are being operated to provide technical assistance to countries. For instance, India is operating six technical co-operation programmes concurrently. Thailand has developed five programmes meant for different regional countries. Pakistan is operating three technical cooperation programmes for different countries. The technical co-operation programmes of Indonesia and Malaysia have a wide coverage. The most important feature of the Singapore programme is that the third country training programme extends to a large number of developing countries, including countries from Asia, the Pacific, Africa and the Caribbean. This programme is being funded by as many as 11 developed countries (North-South Co-operation) and 9 multilateral organizations including the Colombo Plan Secretariat. The above countries are offering over 6500 training facilities annually at a cost of about US\$ 5 million. It is difficult to provide an exact picture of the total volume of technical co-operation currently under way from one developing country to another, as reporting requirements and centralised monitoring do not exist to track bilateral co-operation programmes on a country-by-country basis. At the very least, present day South-South Technical Co-operation activity carried out on a bilateral basis represents funding of millions of dollars in the form of inter-south transfers between provider and beneficiary countries. The Secretariat's study indicates that these countries are willing to share their development experience with other countries and thus have the potential to play a lead role in the promotion of South-South Technical

Co-operation, which continues to have tremendous potential for the future. Such countries are required to develop need specific, technical co-operation programmes which could enhance the capacity of the recipient countries to face the challenges of globalisation and successfully undertake initiatives in high priority areas such as trade and investment, debt management, production and employment, macro-economic policy making, aid management, poverty alleviation and environment. Moreover, these countries through their technical co-operation programmes could also assist other developing countries in the formulation of policies based on their own experiences and lessons in areas in which they have the necessary expertise.

New Challenges for Human Resources Development

6. Several political, social and economic changes are creating new challenges for human resource development in the region. Increasing economic interdependence, institutional realignments within the public and private sector, participatory development through NGOs and, advances in technology and its applications are few of the associated trends and the human development challenges that they pose are briefly discussed below:

a. Globalization and Market Integration

7. The term globalization is used both in a descriptive and in a normative sense. It describes a process of internalization and growing interdependencies where national boundaries become less and less important in decisions to be taken by economic agents. The normative perspective assumes that the full liberalization of market forces through open trade and foreign investment regimes will stimulate growth and lead to greater convergence of income per capita throughout the world.

8. International trade and investment have also assumed increasing importance in the global arena as more countries, including many developing countries that had earlier opted for closed economies, adopt more open trade and investment policies.

9. Growing global and regional economic interdependence have created both opportunities and challenges for human resource development in all countries as it has increased the demand for highly-trained people.

b. Expanding Role of the Private Sector

10. In recent years several member countries of the Colombo Plan have seen the intensification of the process of the expanding role of the private sector, the adoption of market oriented models of development, and the privatisation of various activities, previously undertaken by governments.

11. The positive impact of this trend in efficiency enhancement, faster economic growth and more rational allocation of scarce resources is increasingly felt in countries of the Colombo Plan region.

12. The growing trend is towards further liberalisation and de-regulation of economies, in particular in areas such as trade, investment and finance. The various trade agreements under WTO have

further opened up countries and encouraged them through foreign investment and upgradation of technology to gain competitive advantage in different sectors of the economy. The profound change in the world economic environment and the increasing role of the private sector in generating growth and employment have important implications for human resource development programmes.

c. Enhanced Role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

13. In recent years, NGOs have gained increasing importance as effective development partners. The limited success of conventional development strategies in eradicating poverty and the difficulties that governments have faced in their attempts at formulating effective participatory strategies have provided an increasing role for NGOs in developmental and social spheres. The role of NGOs has further strengthened because of the comparative advantage that NGOs have in dealing with disadvantaged social groups and marginalized communities that in several instances neither government programmes nor the market system have been able to effectively reach those disadvantaged groups.

d. Changing Gender Roles

14. One striking feature of the economic and social processes in several countries of Asia and the Pacific has been the increasing participation of women in economic activities. This has not only resulted in a fuller utilisation of the human resources of a country but has also made substantial improvements in the standards of living of families and the enhancement of other social indicators. All Colombo Plan programmes pay special attention to this vital component of social transformation.

e. Scientific and Technological Advances

15. The world has been witnessing major scientific and technological advances over the recent decades which can revolutionize production processes and other economic activity. The new technologies are knowledge-based and knowledge intensive. They require high levels of skills and capabilities among the work force.

16. In order to take advantage of opportunities provided by the knowledge economy for faster growth the countries of the Colombo Plan region would be required to invest more in human capital development.

III. Colombo Plan's Current Programmes

17. Since its establishment in 1951, the Colombo Plan has played an important role in providing technical assistance to member countries. Primarily, the Colombo Plan's role was of a coordinator, facilitator and clearing house as far as technical assistance was concerned. However, the Report of the Eminent Persons Group endorsed by the 35th Consultative Committee Meeting held in 1994 in Seoul, Republic of Korea and the Government of Japan's five point proposal made at the 34th Consultative Committee Meeting in Yangon, Myanmar in 1992, changed the programme direction of the Colombo Plan. While Japan's proposal called for re-orienting the Colombo Plan into a coordinating mechanism for providing South-South Technical Co-operation, the Eminent

Person's Group recommended that the Colombo Plan should follow a two pronged approach with a few permanent and regular programmes, in subjects which are of high priority to member governments, as well as programmes formulated on a project-by-project basis and supported through South-South Co-operation. The joint communique of the 34th Consultative Committee Meeting also recommended the formation of a sub-group of countries with common, social and cultural backgrounds within each of which a country could be identified as the one to undertake training for trainees from the rest of the sub-group (34th Consultative Committee Meeting, Proceedings and Conclusions, Joint Communique, Paragraph 10 refers) or in other words, some countries could play a lead role to share their development experiences with other Colombo Plan member countries.

18. The activities of the Colombo Plan has undergone major changes over time. As most of the functions of the original Colombo Plan have been subsumed by other and larger international organizations and development agencies, the activities of the Colombo Plan were revitalized so as it could act as a coordinating mechanism for South-South Co-operation in the region. The objectives of the revitalized Colombo Plan are:

- a) to promote interest in, and support for, the economic and social development of Asia and the Pacific;
- b) to keep under review relevant information on technical cooperation between the member countries and multilateral and other agencies, with a view to accelerating development through cooperative effort; and
- c) to facilitate transfer and sharing of development experiences among member countries within the region, with emphasis on the concept of South-South Co-operation.

19. Since its revitalisation in 1995, the Colombo Plan has been having the following Programmes:

(i) Programme for Public Administration (PPA)

The Colombo Plan Secretariat initiated the Programme for Public Administration in 1995 in collaboration with the Asian Productivity Organisation (APO), and the South East Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC) with financial support from the Government of Japan to provide middle level government officials unique training opportunities in public management responsive to the changing needs of globalisation and a market oriented economy. Initially the Colombo Plan played the role of a coordinator and facilitator, as nominations were made for inclusion in the regular programmes conducted by APO and SEAFDEC. However, the Colombo Plan's emphasis shifted in 1996 from sponsoring participants to training courses conducted by APO and SEAFDEC to its own training courses conducted jointly in collaboration with member countries. The member countries not only shared their development experiences with other countries, but also financed the local cost of training. So far the PPA has conducted programmes in the areas of macro-economic management, poverty alleviation, environment and productivity improvement.

(ii) Programme for Private Sector Development, Publications and Data Bank (PPSD/DB)

The Programme for Private Sector Development/Data Bank (PPSD/DB) was also established in 1995 to provide technical assistance to member countries to develop their management capacities in small and medium enterprises specially in the private sector, through using the concept of South-South Co-operation. The programme was initially started with contributions from the Government of the Republic of Korea. Since the financial year 1996/1997 the Asian Development Bank has been providing a technical assistance grant to partially fund PPSD/DB Programmes which were hosted by the Governments of India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand. The merging of South-South Technical Co-operation/Data Bank Programme and the Programme for Private Sector Development at a later stage further strengthened the programme activities of the Colombo Plan as these two divisions had several common objectives and activities.

The PPSD/DB has organised programmes in fields like linkages between big corporations and SMEs, stimulating entrepreneurship, export management, financial management for SMEs, Trade and WTO emerging issues etc. Upto the middle of 2001 PPSD/DB has trained approximately 350 officials of member countries in SMEs, WTO and trade issues, E-Commerce and IT. The member countries not only shared their development experiences with other countries, but also financed the local cost of training. The other activities of the division are:

- a) to collect and collate data on bilateral as well as multilateral South- South Technical Co-operation activities in Asia and the Pacific region and establish a data bank to house the collected information. The data base is also available on the web www.colombo-plan.org . Efforts are being made to establish linkages with other organisations and some of the member governments. First of such linkages has been established with the UNDP database known as WIDE (Web of Information for Development); and
- b) analyse the collected data and publish information for dissemination among member countries. The Secretariat has published two comprehensive volumes on public sector technical cooperation activities in the member countries.

(iii) Drug Advisory Programme (DAP)

The Drug Advisory Programme of the Colombo Plan initiated in 1973 with the support of USA has played a very important role to eliminate the causes and ameliorate the effects of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substance abuse in the member countries. This programme is slightly different from the other programmes. The programme delivery cost is met entirely from the funds provided by donors on a voluntary basis. A Major portion of the funding is provided by USA, Japan and Australia. Modest contributions are also received from several other member countries.

(iv) Third Country Programmes and Project-by-Project Approach

The Colombo Plan Secretariat also continued to promote capacity building activities through third-country training programmes. Within the framework of the cooperation arrangement between the Secretariat and member governments, and basing on the priorities indicated by member countries, the Colombo Plan collaborates with member governments in the implementation of training courses in different economic and social spheres under which a large number of professionals of member countries are trained. In the last few years the Governments of Japan, Korea, Australia and international agencies like ADB, NORAD, OPEC Fund generously funded these programmes to cover the foreign exchange component of programme costs while the hosting country met the local costs.

One of the innovations in the Colombo Plan programme activities is the development of specific projects which are topical as well as of importance to member countries which are not normally part of the regular programmes. Under this concept of project-by-project approach, PPSD/DB developed the following series of projects in areas such as:

- a) Trade Policy;
- b) Negotiation Techniques in the Area of Trade and Investment Liberalization;
- c) Trade Talks – Role of Developing Countries;
- d) Multilateral Framework – Maximizing Growth Potential of Developing Countries (5 programmes);
- e) Irrigation and Water Management Development to Improve Food/Livelihood Security in Developing Countries (5 programmes) in collaboration with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI); and
- f) E-Commerce Capacity Building and Advance Information Technology Programme in Developing Countries.

The first three programmes and one programme from (d) above have been successfully completed for which host facilities were provided by the Governments of Indonesia, India and Singapore respectively. Funds to meet foreign exchange component were provided by NORAD and the OPEC Fund.

(v) Colombo Plan Staff College for Technician Education (CPSC)

The Colombo Plan Staff College for Technician Education (CPSC) is located in Manila, Philippines. Established in 1973 with the support of member governments of the Colombo Plan, the Staff College is the only regional institution that consistently addresses technician education issues in member countries. Its primary goal is to enhance the growth and development of technician education systems in developing Colombo Plan member countries.

The Colombo Plan has also developed strong partnerships and collaborative programmes with several institutions in the region including the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) Tokyo, Japan, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) Tokyo, Japan, Citynet Yokohama, Japan, Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) Malaysia; Institute of Public Administration (INTAN) Malaysia; Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI) India etc. In involving the private sector as a partner in South-South Co-operation, the Colombo Plan has been successful in establishing linkages with reputed financial institutions to impart training in emerging issues in the financial sectors and capital markets. The Colombo Plan has also been collaborating with organizations such as WTO and UNCTAD in trade matters and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) in issues related to water management.

IV. Programme Features

20. The above mentioned Colombo Plan programmes have the following features which distinguish them from the bilateral technical cooperation programmes of MCs (Member Countries):

- a) the fact that the developing countries have many common features, especially in their socio-economic and political environment makes the development experiences of selected countries more adaptable to their less developed counterparts;
- b) the Colombo Plan's programmes are being funded entirely on South-South Technical Co-operation funding modality* i.e. shared cooperation. While the local programme costs are met by the host governments the foreign exchange cost component of the programme is borne by the developed donor countries. Thus in most of the programmes the concepts of North-South and South-South Cooperation are used;
- c) Programmes are chosen in a manner that address the training needs of member countries, after consultation with member governments;
- d) the Colombo Plan as an inter-governmental organisation can mobilize resource persons on a region-wide basis and this gives a regional perspective to developmental issues;
- e) resource persons for programmes are usually selected from within the region. This provides an opportunity for the interaction of experts in the region. It may be emphasised that programme participants are generally at a policy making level and thus provide excellent inputs to training programmes;
- f) the Colombo Plan programmes enlist the support of well established centres of excellence in member countries for programme delivery and implementation. The implementing agency assumes a sense of project co-ownership as it is involved at all stages from planning to implementation. This also assists in establishing linkages with centres of excellence in other countries; and

* For Colombo Plan's SSTC model, refer to its paper titled "*The Future Role of the Colombo Plan in the context of its new mandate for South-South Co-operation*" presented at the 36th Consultative Committee Meeting held in Colombo in 1996.

- g) the Colombo Plan programmes address both public and private sector organisations and institutions. The efforts of these private sector institutions and associations of business people and other professionals could complement government endeavours. Inter-country networking of these interests will significantly contribute to the full realization of South-South Co-operation potential.

Linkages Between Bilateral Technical Co-operation Programmes of Member Countries and Multilateral Technical Co-operation Programmes of the Colombo Plan

21. In the preceding paragraphs the features of the technical co-operation programmes of some of the member governments and multilateral technical co-operation programmes of the Colombo Plan have been highlighted. Both programmes are distinct in nature but supplement each other for human resource development in the region. The programmes which used to be conducted under bilateral technical co-operation programmes have taken the shape of multilateral technical co-operation programmes of the Colombo Plan, with the collaboration of the respective member governments in extending host facilities and consequently bearing the local cost. Most of the member countries of the Colombo Plan, especially the more advanced, have their own technical co-operation budgets for bilateral technical co-operation programmes. Such countries can through suitable allocation of resources forge linkages between bilateral programmes of member countries and multilateral programmes of the Colombo Plan. Presently the Governments of Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand are hosting Colombo Plan programmes on a "Third Country" financing modality for the benefit of all developing member countries. In this respect, the Government of India, from the year 2000, has decided to set apart out of the TCDC budget a sum of Indian Rupees 4 million, termed "The Millennium Fund" solely for joint programmes with the Colombo Plan.

V. Recommendations

22. Despite its importance, South-South Co-operation has had only limited success to its credit, despite decades of formal adherence. Some of the underlying causes are: scarcity of financial resources; weak organisation; lack of institutionalised technical support; and a lack of a facility capable of providing continued technical and intellectual support. The following suggested interventions both at national and regional levels could make SSTC a more effective tool in harnessing resources for collective self help in the development process of member countries:

- a) countries of the South should after evaluating the comparative advantages use the concept of SSTC in the implementation of development programmes and projects;
- b) countries should have a clear understanding of their capacities and needs and should put in place suitable mechanisms to manage the transfer and/or absorption of skills from other countries. The Colombo Plan Secretariat can assist the member governments to work out such a mechanism;
- c) private sector participation in SSTC activities would further strengthen the concept and optimize the delivery mechanism. There is a need to establish effective partnership with key sector entities in the developing countries such as major business enterprises and chambers of commerce and industry. Since the private sector is an important element in faster economic

growth, its participation in SSTC programmes is extremely vital. The Colombo Plan Secretariat is in the process of collecting data on private sector's capacities to offer training to their counterparts within or outside their countries;

- d) NGO's which have effective delivery mechanisms and grassroots participation should be effectively involved to channel the benefits of SSTC in specific sectors to a large number of people. They can also serve as mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the efficiency of SSTC modalities and when appropriate, propose adaptation and refinements in respect of SSTC activities;
- e) lack of financial resources either on the part of donors or recipients have hindered the application of SSTC funding modality. To overcome this problem, action is needed to build national capacity both institutional as well as individual to impart training. Therefore future training programmes should lay more emphasis on training of trainers;
- f) to further economise on expenditure, greater emphasis should be given to country specific demand driven training programmes with the assistance of experts from other countries specially regional countries. The Colombo Plan can play an important role to sensitise the concept of SSTC and through support for training programmes carried out at the national level;
- g) the MCs having bilateral technical cooperation programmes could consider allocating training facilities from their bilateral technical cooperation programmes to the Secretariat for allocation to the needy countries. Since 1996, the Government of Pakistan is regularly offering seats both short and long term to the Secretariat for allocation to other countries;
- h) prior to a CCM, the participating delegates, from the capitals/focal points could devote at least half a day to discuss ways and means to enhance mutual contacts/co-operation;
- i) many competing regional /inter-regional /international organisations are organising technical assistance programmes independent of each other. To utilise available scarce financial and human resources, it is very necessary for them to periodically meet and discuss their respective priority areas and programmes. It will help to co-ordinate programmes and avoid duplication of programmes.

VI. Funding

23. The success of any SSTC initiative depends upon the provision of adequate financing in addition to the willingness of the countries to share their experiences. Following suggested arrangements could be some mechanisms to ensure the regular flow of funds to implement SSTC projects/activities.

24. At National Level

- (i) Countries having bilateral technical assistance programmes could allocate a reasonable part of their technical assistance budget to host programmes on Third Country Financing Modality.
- (ii) Identified private sector organisations should be encouraged to have training programmes under SSTC where participants from different countries both in private and public sector can come together, which could have great benefits for the private sector in enhancing trade, investment and transfer of technical know-how.
- (iii) Special SSTC programmes/projects should be developed to attract funds from the private sector.
- (iv) Countries could establish dedicated funds to finance local costs of joint programmes conducted with the Colombo Plan. The recent initiative of the Government of India to establish the India Millennium Fund for the Colombo Plan could be a model.

25. At International Level

- (i) As mentioned previously the provision of adequate funding remains central to the promotion and implementation of SSTC activities. In the absence of adequate funding arrangements at national level, the countries should research innovative ways to expand and implement SSTC activities. One such approach is the involvement of donor countries to finance SSTC activities carried out between/among developing countries. In the Colombo Plan region many donor countries and international/regional organisations are financing such activities to provide training to other developing countries.
- (ii) The regional/sub-regional countries may contribute either equally or at some agreed formula to establish a common fund for use of SSTC activities. The fund could be used to finance those activities fully or partially for which full donor support is not forthcoming.

VII. Other Proposals

26. Suggested Action by the Member Governments

- a) The Colombo Plan Constitution seeks to encourage private sector foundations/enterprises to contribute generously to programmes which promote SSTC. The member governments could consider appropriate policy measures which would strengthen private sector participation.
- b) Some of the developing member countries have not formulated a clear policy on SSTC. There is need for developing countries to formulate national policies on SSTC in order to see how it could be integrated to their development process and how the development experiences in one country can be fruitfully shared by others.
- c) The Colombo Plan focal points require to be strengthened to enable them to function effectively. This would not only assist in the formulation of projects but also their prompt and efficient implementation.

VIII. Conclusion

27. The concept of SSTC is being effectively used by countries of the South for over two decades. The importance of SSTC as an instrument to promote cooperation among the countries of the South has increased with the passage of time. However, it requires to be re-oriented in keeping with the changing global economic environment. There is now vastly enhanced potential for the sharing of expertise and experiences and the widening of contacts among such countries. The lessons from divergent growth performances and of problems faced in the development process can be better disseminated among developing countries than ever before. Technical cooperation among countries of the South can thus play a major role at all levels of SSTC – sub regional, regional and inter-regional. The impact of globalisation and liberalisation on the developing countries will only enlarge the scope and capacities of countries for such cooperation.

COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS ON BILATERAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES FOR THE YEARS 1998/1999 AND 1999/2000

BANGLADESH

1. Bangladesh reaffirms its belief in south-south technical cooperation as one of the alternative means to bridge the gap in the areas of human and institutional capacity building vitally needed to achieve faster growth and development. The commonality in history, culture, attitude and the levels of development have been the catalytic forces to foster cooperation among the nations of the South and share their experiences in their respective areas of achievements. The nations of the South can mutually exchange useful experiences through south-south technical cooperation, in a way tailored to the specific needs of the countries concerned. Bangladesh believes that such technical cooperation can broaden the base for more effective and efficient cooperation for development.
2. Major constraints to fostering meaningful participation in south-south technical cooperation are: (i) lack of human and institutional capacity; and (ii) the lack of sufficient funds. These and other constraints coupled with the significant achievements made in some developing countries have drawn a dividing line among developing countries: some are in a position to offer assistance; and some are at the receiving end. Bangladesh, with its limited resources and inadequate institutional framework and over reaching need of responding to emerging economic and social issues, continues to be on the recipient side.
3. The issue of south-south technical cooperation and its importance as a least cost human and institutional capacity building method was discussed at the Third UN Conference on LDCs held in Brussels in May 2001. The G-77 countries stressed that the constraints to forging cooperation should be removed and argued for necessary funding from the North. While we appreciate assistance from a few developed countries in the Colombo Plan, we would urge other developed countries to come forward in a spirit of global partnership, with the needed assistance for this regional organisation to realise its objective and mandate. Quite obviously, the onus lies more on the developed countries of the region.
4. Bilaterally, Bangladesh has concluded some scientific and technical cooperation agreements with some countries in the region, notably, India, China, Pakistan and South Korea. Joint projects with India have also been drawn up. Bangladesh is receiving training in specific fields under the programmes in those countries. Under the educational and cultural agreements with India, China, Pakistan, Turkey and Brunei students from Bangladesh receive education and training in those countries.
5. Apart from those provided under those agreements Bangladesh officials from both the public and private sectors including NGOs are receiving training in Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, India, Singapore, Indonesia and Pakistan. Japan offers a large number of training facilities in a number of fields – from public administration to social and environmental issues. Under their regional

programmes the ADB and the ESCAP also sponsor some training programmes in which Bangladesh regularly participates. Bangladesh is also a regular recipient of training facilities in the region sponsored by the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC). Under the TCDC programme Bangladesh receives training facilities from Sri Lanka (3 per year), China (13 to 15 per year), Malaysia and South Korea.

6. Bangladesh is not only a recipient of training facilities but also a host country. It provides many scholarships (70 per year) to students of Nepal and Bhutan to study various subjects in its universities. It has also hosted many international workshops on gender mainstreaming, environment, natural disasters and development under financing from donors.

7. The Bangladesh NGOs are also increasingly integrating themselves with the international environment. BRAC runs a diploma programme at cost. The Grameen Bank runs one or two international training programmes annually under donor financing – very often financed by CFTC. It is hoped that the donor financing institutions and the Bangladesh NGOs will strengthen their partnership in the future.

8. On studying the balance sheet it is found that receipts out number expenditures and that receivables outweigh payables. However, as Bangladesh moves ahead with the current pace of growth and development, it is visualised that in the not too distant future Bangladesh will enter the "donors club" although in a small way. As Bangladesh's human resources develop and its institutional capacity gains grounds, it is hoped that Bangladesh could sponsor more programmes in areas in which it has experience and competitive advantage under the Colombo Plan's Third Country Training Programme by meeting the local cost of training. Till such time, Bangladesh requests the Colombo Plan to sponsor one or two programmes in Bangladesh under full financing, particularly in areas where Bangladesh has earned global recognition e.g. micro-credit, disaster management, poverty alleviation, environmental management, etc.

9. Bangladesh would like the Colombo Plan to re-consider its offer of hosting a programme under the "Colombo Plan-Africa Initiative" under Japanese financing. In the event that under the "Colombo Plan-Africa Initiative" a programme on either micro-credit or poverty alleviation could be organised, Dhaka would be happy to host it under full Japanese financing. One or two such programmes, if held in Bangladesh, would build up confidence and strengthen the human and institutional capacity to host programmes under the "Third Country Programme" on a cost-sharing basis. Bangladesh hopes that it could have some opportunities to host such programmes in the future.

COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS ON BILATERAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES FOR THE YEARS 1998/1999 AND 1999/2000

INDIA

1. India, as a founder member has been privileged to support various programmes of the Colombo Plan and has been an important development partner of Colombo Plan countries.
2. It is very significant to note the decision of the Government of India to mark 50 years of the Colombo Plan by the establishment of the "India Millennium Fund for the Colombo Plan" which Fund will be Indian Rupees 4 million per annum to assist the Colombo Plan in responding to the changing needs of member countries through multilateral programmes. The Fund would be utilised to meet the local cost component of Colombo Plan training programmes hosted by the Government of India. The establishment of this Fund this year which happens to be the 50th anniversary of the Colombo Plan, reinforces the strong support which the Government of India has been giving to the Colombo Plan and its programmes right from the inception of the Plan. India remains fully supportive of the Colombo Plan initiative regarding third country programmes and specific projects. Toward this end the "Second Conference of Institutes under the Colombo Plan Programme" was convened by the Government of India on 19 January 2001 at the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), New Delhi. Approximately 30 premier institutes in India which conduct technical cooperation programmes for the Colombo Plan participated in the Conference.
3. India has allocated resources in its national budget to finance south-south technical cooperation activities. India is implementing more than one technical cooperation programme designed to achieve specific objectives. Third country training programmes and technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) programmes are being implemented to provide technical cooperation programmes for the current year. A large number of training facilities are being offered.
4. The primary objective of technical cooperation programmes under the Colombo Plan is to enhance skilled labour among technical personnel, managers and policy makers in member countries of the Colombo Plan so that highly qualified people would be available to manage economic activities in member countries. The fields or subjects covered under the Government of India's bilateral technical cooperation programme and the training institutes involved are very large. There are increasing possibilities for the Colombo Plan to collaborate with several Indian institutes of excellence in different fields to meet the specific needs of Colombo Plan member countries.

COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS ON BILATERAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES FOR THE YEARS 1998/1999 AND 1999/2000

INDONESIA

1. Indonesia, within the framework of its constitution and the guidelines provided by state policy has been implementing technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) programmes since the Asia/Africa Conference in Bandung in 1955. Initially, sporadic in nature and on a regular basis since 1977.

2. The purpose of organising TCDC programmes is not only to share knowledge and experience with other developing countries but also to implement the relevant provisions of the Indonesian Constitution pertaining to the establishment of a world order based on freedom, peace and social justice by the strengthening solidarity, unity and economic wellbeing. TCDC is pivotal part of this process.

3. The Indonesian Government strategy for promoting and implementing TCDC activities involves first and foremost knowing and understanding its own technical capacities and the needs for development of other developing countries. As a second step it involves matching them against each other, sharing or transferring skills or exchanging experiences and technologies with other countries which need and request them.

4. Basically, there are three types of TCDC activities implemented by the Government of Indonesia:

(i) the Government of Indonesia initiated and designed the training programme based on Indonesia's capacities and experiences; (ii) the Government of Indonesia designed training programmes based on request by other developing countries; and (iii) the Government of Indonesia in cooperation with other donor countries or other international agencies designed and funded training programmes.

5. The implementation of the above three types of TCDC activities resulted in different financial arrangements for the different types of training programmes:

- (i) the national budget;
- (ii) the national UNDP-IPF; and
- (iii) other financial sources which support the TCDC programme

6. Perspectives and Future Plans of Indonesia – Colombo Plan TCDC Programme

- (i) annual meetings or workshops among Colombo Plan focal points is considered necessary in order to: (a) share information on future programmes to be implemented within the current fiscal year; and (b) evaluate the implementation of TCTP;

- (ii) organise workshops among implementing agencies to improve: (a) the quality of training; and (b) the integration of traditional training methods with the introduction of study tours and internships;
- (iii) organise a series of programmes on similar subjects or issues among countries implementing TCTP. By doing this participants will be able to understand various perspectives and approaches of similar issues in different countries;
- (iv) organise a round table seminar or workshop on certain subjects or issues involving former participants and implementing agencies;
- (v) networking between focal points and implementing agencies to be enhanced in order to exchange technical information and other issues related to training programmes; and
- (vi) science and technology especially information and communication technology (ICT) is a powerful engine of development and can become one of the central issues of TCDC activities.

COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS ON BILATERAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES FOR THE YEARS 1998/1999 AND 1999/2000

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a developing country, has increasingly contributed to the advancement of south-south cooperation activities within the Colombo Plan and through its active participation in other regional and multilateral economic organisations. Iranian membership in a number of developing countries' groupings such as: ECO, D-8, G15, OPEC Fund, IOR-ARC and the Colombo Plan, along with its unique geographical location, has made the country a hub for regional and international cooperation. The Government has established a solid basis for greater participation in south-south technical cooperation. This includes the creation of a number of national institutions specialised in following up different aspects of this issue. One of the most active organisations in the Islamic Republic of Iran which also enjoys a close relationship with the Colombo Plan is the Iranian Research Organisation for Science and Technology (IROST) which was established in 1980.

2. The objectives of IROST are:

- (i) to support inventors, researchers and innovators by providing them with scientific and financial facilities and offering them the possibility of collaborative research activities;
- (ii) to conduct and promote applied research;
- (iii) to enhance the technical development within the country; and
- (iv) to provide technical and advisory services.

3. IROST is conducting a number of bilateral technical cooperation programmes in collaboration with regional organisations which include:

- (i) cooperation with ESCAP to establish a permanent secretariat on regional cooperative policy mechanism (IRPM) in the Islamic Republic of Iran to promote the transfer of environmentally sound technology (EST) in the Asia Pacific region in order to collaborate and operate in the science and technology area with a view to help and assist in capacity building on ESTs and to provide access for developing countries for scientific and technological information; and
- (ii) the establishment of a sub-regional network of the APCTT (Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology) for the Central Asian and Middle Eastern countries in the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to collect and disseminate technological information and to promote sub-regional cooperation in technological development and transfer.

4. Efforts are being made to expedite the establishment of these two sub-regional bodies but as in the case of similar Colombo Plan activities, many obstacles exist such as the issue of training,

financial problems and insufficient support by relevant international organisations. The Islamic Republic of Iran hopes that interested donor member countries and the Colombo Plan will consider the possibility of providing necessary assistance to these projects.

5. The Islamic Republic of Iran has had close relationships with the Colombo Plan during the 35 years of its membership. Such relations have been further advanced in recent years and have coincided with the implementation of post-war national development plans and policies of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to pursue economic liberalisation and as well as regional integration through the membership of various regional organisations. One necessary requirement for the successful implementation of such a policy has been the need for human capital development and the upgrading of technical skills and know-how. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran considers that Colombo Plan activities are relevant to meet such requirements and is willing to enhance its mutual cooperation with the Colombo Plan. Taking this into consideration the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has offered to host the next Colombo Plan Consultative Committee Meeting and has also decided to support financially the technical cooperation activities of the Colombo Plan.

6. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has allocated 200 million Iranian Rials within its third country training programme to implement a number of specific training courses in different economic fields for professionals of member countries. In addition, the Islamic Republic of Iran has also allocated US\$10,000 as direct financial assistance to support the on-going Colombo Plan programmes in priority areas of cooperation. The details of such contributions will be communicated to the Colombo Plan Secretariat shortly.

7. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran hopes that these initiatives would be a starting point towards enhancing cooperation between the Colombo Plan and the Islamic Republic of Iran and would result in opening a new chapter in the long standing relationship that exist.

COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS ON BILATERAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES FOR THE YEARS 1998/1999 AND 1999/2000

JAPAN

1. The Colombo Plan has been making great strides since its establishment in 1950 for the promotion of economic and social development in the Asia-Pacific region. In the field of south-south cooperation in particular, its activities lead that of other regional organisations and the Government of Japan is pleased to say that the Colombo Plan's contribution to Asia Pacific countries is truly significant.
2. Japan's technical assistance substantially started when it joined the Colombo Plan in 1954. Therefore, Japan's assistance to the Colombo Plan has been a symbolic feature of its technical assistance. Japan also assists in the despatch of third country experts, where experts of developing countries trained under the Japanese technical assistance programme are despatched to other developing countries. In fiscal year 1999, third country training was carried out in 31 countries and 2,344 people were trained under the scheme. Furthermore, in the same fiscal year 115 third country experts were sent to developing countries with Japan's assistance.
3. In fiscal year 2000, efforts were made for collaboration between the Colombo Plan and the Japanese third country training programme where three trainees from Colombo Plan member countries were assisted by the Colombo Plan to participate in a training course on "Information Systems Engineering" at the Institute of Computer Technology (ICT) of the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. This course has been funded under the Japanese third country training programme.
4. The Government of Japan has also been despatching experts to the Colombo Plan Secretariat. One expert in the field of public administration is Mr. Akira Murata who was despatched as Director for the Programme for Public Administration (PPA). Through the assistance of past and present experts, the PPA has grown to be a model of human resource development through south-south cooperation. The implementation of training programmes and seminars in areas such as productivity improvement, marine resources management, agriculture and industry are some of the core activities of the PPA. The advice and guidance of Japan's long-term expert who is well versed in Japan's technical assistance methods would be very useful in the planning, management and assessment of the training courses conducted by the PPA.
5. The following paragraph gives a general background to Japanese ODA assistance. As the need for assistance has diversified over the years, Japan's technical assistance was also required to transform itself to meet the needs of the day. Taking this into consideration, Japan is not only active in the field of south-south cooperation but also is active in providing bilateral assistance. In fiscal year 1999, Japan's total technical assistance under the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to the Asia-Pacific region accounted for more than 40% of the total assistance granted. As the case for Japan's other ODA assistance scheme its share to the Asia-Pacific region has increased over the years.

6. The areas of assistance has also diversified over time. Japan provides assistance in such fields as basic human needs, industrial infrastructure development, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, health and public health (including measures against HIV/AIDS), human resources development (including assistance to institutes of higher education and vocational training), democratisation, environment, computer software and bio-technology.

7. The Government of Japan provides assistance to fill the needs of the recipient countries. For example Japan launched programmes in East Asian and South-East Asian countries for their recovery from the Asian economic crisis that began in 1997. Japan actively promotes development policy for the stability of the macro-economies in South Asia. Japan also provides assistance according to the level of development in countries and in countries with high levels of technology Japan provides assistance so that those countries can play the role of a donor and thus contribute to the promotion of south-south cooperation.

8. The Government of Japan intends to continue to contribute to the development of the Asia-Pacific region by effectively combining its bilateral cooperation assistance with its multilateral assistance to the Colombo Plan.

COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS ON BILATERAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES FOR THE YEARS 1998/1999 AND 1999/2000

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

1. General Information

1. The basic principles of Korea's technical cooperation are as follows:
 - to assist HRD of developing countries
 - to assist the efforts of former socialist countries in their transition into market-based economies
 - to transfer Korea's socio-economic development experience.
2. The main areas of Korea's technical cooperation are those in which Korea has a superior edge and where there is a high demand from developing countries.
 - agriculture/forestry/fisheries
 - economic development
 - promotion of trade and investment
 - education and health care

2. HRD through trainees' invitation and experts despatch

3. From its own development experience, Korea came to fully understand the critical importance of HRD. Therefore, Korea is placing top priority on HRD when assisting developing countries. With much experience and know-how Korea can contribute greatly to the international community by sharing its unique development experience.

4. From 1991 to 2000, Korea organised 549 training courses and trained a total of 9784 trainees from 154 countries. In order to share experiences and knowledge at the grass-roots level, Korea despatched more than 1440 Korean Overseas Volunteers (KOVs) and experts to 32 countries.

Type of Invitation of Trainees

5. Korea is implementing five types of training programmes:
 - regular courses for a variety of countries
 - country-based courses at the request of specific countries
 - regional-based courses
 - joint training programmes with international agencies
 - third country training programmes with other donor countries

3. HRD Programme in 1999

Budget

6. The budget of Korea's grant aid in 1999 was US\$38 million of which more than 30% was utilised for support for HRD through trainees invitation programme and experts despatched programme.

Performance

7. In 1999, Korea invited 1401 trainees from 116 countries who participated in a total of 74 courses. Korea also despatched 149 overseas volunteers and experts to 22 countries.

Regional Distribution

8. The majority of Korea's technical cooperation activities is concentrated in the Asia-Pacific region. Approximately 60% of the invited trainees came from the Asia-Pacific region, 18% came from Eastern Europe and CIS countries and 8% came from the Latin American countries. With regard to the despatch of Korean experts, 23 experts were despatched to 12 Asian countries, 8 to Middle Eastern countries, 3 to Latin American countries and 2 to African countries.

Performance by Sector

9. With regard to the training courses by sector:

government and civil society	-	26%
agriculture/forestry/fisheries	-	16%
education	-	7%
trade	-	7%
environmental protection	-	7%

10. With regard to the despatch of experts:

agriculture/forestry/fisheries	-	35%
mining and manufacturing industries	-	23%
education	-	15%

11. The high despatch rate in the areas of agriculture/forestry/fisheries is explained by the fact that most recipient countries are low-income with a high ratio of those fields as the primary industry in their economic structure.

4. Cooperation with Colombo Plan Member Countries

12. In 1999, technical cooperation with Colombo Plan member countries is approximately 37%. 512 trainees from 16 member countries took a variety of courses and 71 Korean Overseas Volunteers and experts were despatched to 11 member countries. This increased drastically in the year 2000. 1,926 trainees from 112 countries followed 106 courses among which the number of trainees from Colombo Plan member countries totalled 65%. In addition, 62% of Korean Overseas Volunteers and experts were despatched to Colombo Plan member countries.

5. Third Country Training Programmes (TCTP)

13. Since 1995, Korea has implemented two TCTP with Singapore and Israel. Every year the TCTP with Singapore invites about 40 Asian trainees. The main areas of training are: trade promotion, macro-economic policy, communication policy and harbour management. Between 1997 and 1999, the TCTP with Israel focused on irrigation and agricultural management in South East Asia.

COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS ON BILATERAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES FOR THE YEARS 1998/1999 AND 1999/2000

MALAYSIA

1. In line with the spirit of south-south cooperation, Malaysia has implemented a technical cooperation programme since 1980, which is known as the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP). The objective of the MTCP include the sharing of development experiences with other developing countries and the strengthening of bilateral relationships between Malaysia and other countries.
2. While the MTCP focused on bilateral cooperation, it has also cooperated with multilateral agencies such as the Colombo Plan, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the UNDP.
3. As people constitute a major asset for the development of a country, the MTCP continues to emphasise the development of human resources through the provision of training at local universities and training institutions. The Malaysian National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN), particularly, plays an active role in the implementation of MTCP courses.
4. Training offered under the MTCP enabled international participants to exchange information, share development experiences as well as acquire new knowledge.
5. Other programmes of the MTCP include study visits, despatch of experts, undertaking of socio-economic development projects as well as the supply of equipment and materials on a very selective basis.
6. The MTCP also collaborates with third parties such as the UNDP, ESCAP, AARRO, IDB, ADB and the World Bank as well as donor countries in the utilisation of training facilities in Malaysia for study visits and attachments.
7. To further widen the scope and enhance the effectiveness of the MTCP, efforts have been made to promote greater collaboration between the Government and the private sector in its implementation.
8. The MTCP is financed through one of the following modalities:
 - (a) full funding by the Malaysian Government;
 - (b) full funding by the recipient Government;
 - (c) third party funding; and
 - (d) and cost-sharing
9. In the future, the MTCP will be expanded to cover more areas of cooperation in meeting the training needs of participating countries, as well as to provide a greater scope for cost-sharing, third party funding and private sector involvement.

COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS ON BILATERAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES FOR THE YEARS 1998/1999 AND 1999/2000

PAKISTAN

1. The Government of Pakistan has promoted bilateral technical cooperation through Pakistan Technical Programme (PTAP) and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) Programme. Pakistan during the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 continued to offer educational facilities in Pakistan's Professional Institutions under Pakistan Technical Assistance Programme in the fields of MBBS, BDS, B. Pharmacy, and B.Sc Engineering to the member countries which included Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Iran, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Colombo Plan Secretariat. In addition to the regular facilities, if a country ask for additional seats, these are provided either from vacant/unutilized seats if become available or under self-financing scheme.
2. In addition, training facilities were also provided annually to the nominees of Colombo Plan developing countries in Central Banking Course, Commercial Banking Course, Railways and Postal to Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Iran, DPR Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Colombo Plan Secretariat. All these above mentioned training facilities were fully funded. Government of Pakistan has also hosted a training programme in collaboration with Colombo Plan Secretariat on Development of Export Capability of Small and Medium Enterprises at Lahore and Islamabad during 1998. The government of Pakistan offered hosting of training Programme on Marketing and Plan Marketing Management of SME's but it could not be finalized due to some administrative reasons.
3. Technical assistance/cooperation expenditures have played a major role in overall aid to the poorest countries. Pakistan aided and funded by UNDP has been engaged in programmes of TCDC with several other member countries, which are all part of the developing world and have similar problems like: poverty; bad governance; and gender inequality. Under the TCDC programmes, efforts were also made to bring these countries together and to improve their conditions in several specified fields and in the process exchange technical expertise and assistance with each other.
4. Under the Technical Assistance Programme, the Governments of Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and Philippines offered short-term courses and scholarships to Pakistani candidates in various disciplines, which were utilized. Pakistan has also benefited from the training facilities provided by the Programme for Public Administration (PPA) under the Colombo Plan Secretariat since 1995. In addition annual facilities offered by Colombo Plan in the form of training programmes, seminars and workshops in the fields of food, agriculture, law, drug abuse, economic and finance, information technology and science and technology were also utilized by Pakistan.

5. Pakistan being an agricultural economy has also benefited during last five years by participating in training programmes on agricultural productivity measurement and analysis; and fisheries development. Pakistan also benefited greatly by participating in the training programmes conducted in Malaysia (Development Experience: Getting the Policies Right); in Singapore (Seminar on the Framework for Economic Transformation); in Indonesia (Wage Income Policy); and the Islamic Republic of Iran (Rural Poverty Alleviation).

6. For a developing country like Pakistan it is always desirable to take maximum benefit from the training facilities available from friendly countries as well as international organization in following areas:-

- Macro Economic Management
- Poverty Alleviation (Rural Development)
- Environment
- Productivity Improvement (Public Sector)
- Social Sector Development (Role of NGOs)
- Information Technology
- Financial Resource Management
- Governance
- Women In Management/Gender and Development

COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS ON BILATERAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES FOR THE YEARS 1998/1999 AND 1999/2000

SINGAPORE

1. As we begin a new millennium, the free flow of goods and services, capital and information, brought about by the twin forces of globalisation and information technologies has led to increasing inter-dependence among nations. This offers Colombo Plan countries a unique opportunity to share and learn from one another's economic development experiences. More than ever, given the continued economic uncertainties, Singapore believes that the only way forward is for member countries to force even closer south-south technical cooperation (SSTC) and continue to upgrade the skills of human resources in the Colombo Plan region.
2. Since the last Consultative Committee Meeting (CCM) held in Manila in November 1998, Singapore has remained committed to sharing its development experiences with fellow Colombo Plan member countries through the Singapore Technical Assistance Programme for Colombo Plan Countries (STAPCPC – formerly known as the Colombo Plan Training Awards) and the Singapore-Colombo Plan Third Country Training Programme. In addition, Singapore has also extended assistance to member countries through other bilateral and multilateral arrangements. These were conducted under the framework of the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP), established in 1992. To date, Singapore has sponsored training courses and study visits for over 15,000 officials from some 140 developing countries in Asia and the Pacific, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. From FY 1998 to 2000, Singapore has sponsored 5434 officials from fellow Colombo Plan member countries for training courses and study visits as part of its commitment to the SSTC concept. This represents more than half of all SCP participants sponsored during that period. For the current financial year, a total of 16 courses – a third of which are in the areas of information technology and e-commerce – are scheduled under the STAPCPC and Singapore-Colombo Plan TCTP programmes. This represents an increase of 60% in the number of course offerings over the previous year. Singapore will continue to expand the number of courses offered where necessary and review the training needs of member countries to keep up with regional and global economic developments.
4. With regard to the Colombo Plan Secretariat's latest initiative to extend technical assistance to African countries and other regions, Singapore's own technical assistance to this region included sharing its productivity experience with the Government of Botswana in establishing the Botswana National Productivity Centre (BNPC) in August 1995, in addition to having sponsored 333 training courses for a total of 2066 participants from Africa under 35 separate bilateral and multilateral arrangements of the SCP. Similarly, for ASEAN countries, a total of 846 training courses have been conducted for 7193 participants under 50 separate SCP bilateral and multilateral arrangements to date.

5. As a small country with only 4 million people and no natural resources, Singapore has learnt from its own experience that human resource development is a vital catalyst of economic development. Today, Singapore places national emphasis on the education of its young and life time re-skilling of its work force to remain competitive in the global economy. Singapore remembers how the Colombo Plan helped boost its economy through technical assistance from the time of self-government in 1959 up to 1988. Since 1961, Singapore has been glad to give something back to fellow developing member countries through the STAPCPC and the Singapore-Colombo Plan TCTP. Although, Singapore does not have all the answers to the problems facing developing countries, Singapore hopes that its own past experiences will help fellow member countries along the path to greater development.

SINGAPORE

Participation Rate from CP Member Countries

FY	No. of Courses	No. of Participants
1998	64	1242
1999	64	1739
2000	71	2453
Total No. of Participants		5434

COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS ON BILATERAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES FOR THE YEARS 1998/1999 AND 1999/2000

SRI LANKA

1. The Sri Lanka delegation thanks the Colombo Plan Secretariat for its comprehensive paper on South-South co-operation. South-South co-operation is crucial for developing and strengthening the economic independence of developing countries. It is also viewed as a platform, which would provide an opportunity for equitable participation in the global economy. Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries have become an integral part of the mutual relations between the States of the South and an important means of promoting the exchange of experiences, knowledge and expertise. The current international environment moulded by the twin process of globalization and liberalisation has heightened the need for enhanced South-South co-operation, especially in human resources development in order to enhance developing countries' capacity to participate in the international economic system.
2. Sri Lanka considers increasing contacts and interaction with countries of the South at regional, intra-regional and bilateral levels as paramount, with the objective of strengthening co-operation between developing countries, which the Colombo Plan has facilitated through its activities.
3. Sri Lanka has hitherto been a recipient of international technical assistance. However, from this year a scheme has been initiated to assist a number of developing countries in Asia, by sharing expertise in areas where Sri Lanka has demonstrable experience and knowledge. Some of these recipient countries are also Colombo Plan members. With the implementation of this scheme, Sri Lanka, in its modest capacity is contributing towards the furtherance of South South co-operation. Five training projects have so far been successfully completed and several are planned for the remainder of this year.
4. This scheme has offered training and expertise in areas such as agriculture, diplomacy, capital markets and information technology and in many ways is complementary to the efforts of the Colombo Plan, which has also provided scholarships in similar areas.
5. As pointed out in the Secretariat Paper, the major scientific and technological advances require an upgrading of human skills. The evolution of the knowledge based economy poses an urgency to invest in human capital, especially in the ICT sector. Member countries should consider requesting the Colombo Plan Secretariat to explore the possibility of formulating a programme of work extending assistance for training in ICT. As stated earlier today member states with more developed expertise in ICT could consider playing a lead role.

COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS ON BILATERAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES FOR THE YEARS 1998/1999 AND 1999/2000

THAILAND

1. Thailand has been implementing the Thai International Cooperation Programme (TICP) for decades through various modalities such as bilateral cooperation, annual international training courses, technical cooperation among developing countries, trilateral and regional cooperation and third country training. Thailand TICP centres on HRD especially in the three most needed areas: agriculture, education and public health. The activities of the TICP include: short and long-term training; despatch of experts and consultants; provision of equipment; and implementation of development projects.
2. Thailand's bilateral programme has been designed to meet the needs of cooperating partners. The major cooperating countries are Thailand's neighbouring countries: Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. Annual meetings are held to discuss their needs and to agree on the technical cooperation programme for each year.
3. Thailand's bilateral programme for the past two years amounted to 206.13 million baht (which is equivalent to US\$5.15 million). Approximately 1505 trainees attended the training programmes. Around 84% of the total was spent on Thailand's neighbouring countries: Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.
4. In addition, the Royal Thai Government has organised annual international training courses and programmes which cover a wide range of subjects such as agriculture, education, public health, social development, science and technology, etc. 462 trainees from 30 countries attended some 30 courses during FY 1999/2000. The costs incurred in the operation of this programme amounted to 17.35 million baht (the equivalent of US\$0.43 million).
5. Other programmes included the Trilateral and Regional Cooperation Programme; Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries' Programme; and the Third Country Training Programme. During 1999 to 2000 Thailand, in cooperation with donor countries and international organisations organised various activities such as training workshops and meetings for 914 trainees from other developing countries. The total amount spent on such programmes was approximately 12.74 million baht.
6. Thailand has also launched a new programme for its neighbouring countries in 2000. Fellowships for Masters Degree Programmes in Thailand have been offered to Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.
7. More detailed information on Thailand's technical cooperation programme could be found in the Thai International Cooperation Programme 1998-1999 Report which is available for delegates.
8. In conclusion, Thailand would like to reiterate its commitment to technical cooperation and looks forward to working with more donors in trilateral cooperation.

Special Issue I:

Knowledge: The Key to Faster Growth of Member Countries in the 21st Century – The Role of the Colombo Plan

Background paper prepared by the Government of Fiji

1. The “knowledge boom” has hit the West like lightning in recent years and is increasingly becoming a concern of the more developed nations of the world.
2. Since the invention of the first tools, economic progress has always depended on new ideas and innovations, in other words, knowledge. We have always been familiar with the importance of knowledge, but what is revolutionary is our understanding of the role of knowledge in the process of economic growth and the resources available to those, whose job it is to apply knowledge to economic issues. Knowledge is now recognized as being as important as physical capital, financial capital and natural resources as a source of economic growth. Peter Drucker has gone so far as to state that knowledge has become the resource, rather than just another resource. This development challenges many existing institutions and policies that were developed in times when knowledge was viewed as less important an economic asset.
3. There are two major underlying and inter-related forces that are helping to shape this emerging economy. The first of these is globalization. Increasingly, economic activity is undertaken without reference to international borders. The second force is the growth in communications, which means the falling cost and rising efficiency in the transmission, retrieval and analysis of information. Together, these forces are creating a global economy in which knowledge is used pervasively as both an input and an output.

Characteristics of the Knowledge Economy

4. In the Knowledge Economy, the ability to generate and use knowledge – to innovate – is not only a determinant of wealth, it is also the basis of comparative advantage. Knowledge is the fundamental means to improving the efficiency of production and distribution processes, improving the quality and quantity of products, and increasing the choice of products and services for consumers and producers.
5. Sectors, industries and indeed nations that succeed in the Knowledge Economy will be those that innovate – that develop new ideas, employ new processes, manufacture new products and deliver new services. The growing economic activity in knowledge- and technology- intensive sectors is already translating into rapidly expanding output and employment growth in high-technology industries such as computers, electronics, telecommunications and aerospace, albeit in the developed nations.

6. While the transition to a Knowledge Economy holds the prospect of improved economic performance, it also brings with it formidable adjustment challenges with implications for firms, individuals, educational institutions and governments. For some, the labour-saving potential of new technologies and the resulting requirement for new skills is leading to a new era of unemployment in certain segments of the labour force.

7. For others, technological change and the information society hold the promise of increased employment and better living standards, if employers and workers are willing to change and adapt. The danger is not so much a society of have and have-nots, but one of knows and know-nots.

8. The keys to strong performance in the Knowledge Economy are the successful generation, acquisition, diffusion, and exploitation of knowledge.

Generation and Acquisition of Knowledge

9. Innovation, the key to success in the Knowledge Economy, is dependent on the generation and acquisition of knowledge. A firm's ability to grow depends upon innovation. Successful firms place greater emphasis on their innovation capabilities and devote more effort to activities in these areas.

10. R&D is considered one of the most important determinants of innovation since it is used to generate knowledge. In developing countries however, there are very little resources available for research, and to a large extent nations such as ours are limited to adapting existing knowledge for use in our domestic economies.

11. Knowledge acquisition is as important as knowledge generation in innovation. The adoption rate of advanced technology is one indicator of the rate of knowledge acquisition.

Diffusion and Exploitation of Knowledge

12. New technologies will not result in productivity improvements and enhanced international competitiveness unless and until they are widely diffused throughout all levels of the economy. At the company level, new technologies transform basic business functions, offer enhanced flexibility and responsiveness to clients, better quality and delivery and improved efficiency of supplier linkages. Nowhere is this more evident than in the case of e-commerce.

13. New technologies are also embedded in a wide array of final products and services, which results in a growing range of customized and more advanced "intelligent" products and services for all companies. In sectors such as IT, we are seeing the proliferation of new industries such as new media and entertainment, which combine technology, transmission and content to provide a wide range of new information applications, products and services. These new industries hold the promise of creating thousands of new, highly-skilled jobs and contributing significantly to economic growth. New technologies are an important part of adaptation and innovation, but they are not enough. Human resources are becoming a key source of competitive advantage and their development a major means to increases in productivity, growth and jobs. Knowledge is embedded in people, giving those with it mobility, influence and opportunity.

14. The Knowledge Economy is generating a strong demand for those involved in acquiring and applying knowledge, people who know how to learn and who continue learning by upgrading existing skills and acquiring new skills – that is, knowledge workers. The Knowledge Economy requires skills that are broad and highly transferable such as problem solving and the ability to learn.

15. The challenge for firms is to transform themselves into learning organizations to improve the accumulation and retention of knowledge workers and to encourage the broader and continuous diffusion of knowledge. For workers, the challenge is to continuously upgrade and broaden their skills, through formal education as well as through learning in the workplace and in less formal surroundings.

Building the Knowledge Infrastructure

16. Experience shows that infrastructure investment is critical to improving the productivity of the economy. Over the years, Fiji has invested heavily in transportation, education and telecommunications infrastructure to support economic growth. To this must be added today research facilities and university laboratories, and investments in human capital such as education, training and apprenticeship.

17. As with all such projects, the building of the knowledge infrastructure will stimulate growth given the need to construct new and to expand existing communications and information networks; create new jobs which require various kinds of skills; and increase productivity through innovative new processes, both in the private and public sectors.

18. Hence, the importance of building a national infrastructure to remain internationally competitive. The countries that enter the Knowledge Economy early will reap the greatest rewards and will set the agenda for other countries to follow.

What are the implications for developing countries

19. While the creation of knowledge societies are desirable principally because it encourages the spread of information and knowledge to those who have thus been denied access, we must also be wary of the ominous trends that are developing.

20. In particular, one must take note that amid the exuberance of ushering in a global knowledge economy, is the stark reality that the majority of the world's population is being left behind in this great new paradigm shift. The facts and figures are by now familiar, but they need constant reiteration to drive home the point that if the gap is not bridged in the near future, the very survival of poorer countries in the global knowledge economy is threatened.

21. For every example of global progress, there is always a counter example, which illustrates that prosperity has not been broad-based and that development has not been equitable. While world trade and foreign direct investments have increased and the price of communicating has decreased, the world also has to face the reality that over one billion people do not have access

to clean water, about 840 million are malnourished and one out of seven children of primary school age are out of school. If basic provisions such as these are still wanting in many parts of the world, it is almost meaningless to talk of cellular-phone penetration in these least developed economies.

22. This situation gives rise to a bizarre global economy operating with two parallel universes. On the one hand we see mergers and acquisitions worth billions of dollars between dot coms and telecommunication companies, and on the other, a situation where the poor continue to wallow in abject poverty. This dichotomy does not yet have a bridge and as a result those who are marginalised cannot put the new global knowledge economy into any context. To them, the basic challenge remains the same: literally to survive.

23. For developing countries, the main concern is that we will never be able to catch up with the developed world. The sheer pace of technological development seems to have far outstripped our ability to develop and apply new technologies into our economies. The central commercial phenomenon of the Knowledge Economy, the Internet, is mainly in the hands of players from or based in the developed countries. Developing countries who have jumped on the cyber bandwagon have been left in an awesome wake of innovation and creativity, and have in many cases been reduced to copying and replicating applications for domestic usage.

24. The implications of the new global Knowledge Economy, need to be re-assessed. The cyber-economy, which in the future will replace the traditional markets, is organic in growth and has no characteristics of a planned economic structure. It is an economy in which no one but the forces of the cybermarket itself is in control. The implications of such a situation are tremendous for sovereign governments.

25. We already know that transactions in cyberspace can be executed regardless of where the individual processing the deal is geographically located. The increase of electronic commerce and financial services will mean that more and more people are able to move, invest and save their money in a virtual economy beyond the reach of national governments. Even the nascent e-commerce industry, for example, has raised concerns about the purchase of goods and services that cannot be taxed.

26. Many of the leading companies in the virtual economy are located in the developed countries and from there they now have direct access to the massive developing or emerging markets without having their goods and services taxed. The foregone earnings by the governments of developing countries will be enormous.

27. Such a situation arises because of the competing views that exist regarding the new global Knowledge Economy. On the one hand, it is seen as a world of limitless opportunities which can bring success to anyone who is talented and capable. And on the other hand, it is seen as something which will exacerbate the existing inequalities of opportunities and wealth.

28. The developing world has a right to voice its skepticism about this brave new world. Since we have gained independence, we have not seen our countries go from strength to strength from the struggle for emancipation to being treated as equals on the world stage.

Why is it important for member countries?

29. The member countries of the Colombo Plan span the spectrum in as much as their stages of development and growth are concerned. To a large extent they are still heavily reliant on primary products and the processing of these products for their livelihood.

30. Member countries have however a unique opportunity to build up on the knowledge that has been acquired by other countries in what they have achieved to date. In fact this process forms the cornerstone of what the Colombo Plan is all about. The Plan is all about the leaders helping those who lag behind.

What can The Colombo Plan Do?

1. NEEDS OF NEW APPROACH FOR THE MEMBER COUNTRIES

31. Industries of the member countries consist of multinational enterprises including so called hi-tech industries that need to acquire highly capable and problem solving type of human resource.

32. To sustain the hi-tech revolution and survive the mega competition in the world markets, their products are becoming sophisticated and value added. **The human resource development** system must be changed accordingly. There is a need to provide appropriate types of education and training programmes not only at secondary and tertiary education but also in lifelong education into the future. This means there is a need for continuing training programmes to address hi-tech industries. If learners want to study there should be a learning opportunity, whenever and wherever they are. In addition, training programmes must be revised and up-dated regularly.

33. Since the recent advancement of digital technology it is possible to share the resources, experience and expertise which member countries have.

2. OVERVIEW OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

34. **CURRENT** (*Traditional type teaching and learning*): Technical education and training have been carried out in schools and institutions. The focus of curriculums is on getting a general basic knowledge and skills in technical subjects.

35. However, to onehandedly maintain the pace of hi-tech developments, institutions do have constraints such as "Acute shortage of Teaching and Learning resources" and "inadequacy of teachers competency".

THE NEAR FUTURE (Era of hi-tech industry):

36. Hi-tech industries require specific human resources which are able to fulfil their specific roles.

37. To meet the rapidly advancing technology, Colombo Plan should embark on introducing various types of courses with specific objectives via distance learning. The curriculum will need to be comprehensive as well as specific.

38. Combining the technical advancement of digital technology such as computer, communication and multimedia, teaching and learning methods and resources would be drastically changed from the current situation. Learners would study either in a school, institution, at home, or at their work place. This means that self-learning type distance study would be more common and learners would study using mainly package media as well as network media.

LONG FUTURE (Era of high-tech society):

39. Lifelong learning has more meaning in Asian communities which face so called hi-tech society. Those countries are reaching a certain socioeconomic standard such as PQLI (Physical Quality Life Index), educational standard and human resource development programme as well as industrial technologies. Such a hi-tech society needs to provide further education and training programmes for the self-directed person who will need to acquire additional education and training for their own need to challenge the new tasks in a industry or social activities or personal interests. Combining the broadcasting (TV, radio) and computer networking technology (like the Internet) will make it possible for learners to access various kinds of programmes which would be provided by schools, institutions or even by industries. Learners will be able to select the most appropriate self learning programme of multimedia distance education by themselves.

40. *This paper recommend the establishment of multimedia distance study systems for CPSC as being a Technical Education Institute*

3. FEATURES OF PROGRAMMES

41. The feature of the programmes should be hi-tech learning packages that allow students to work at their own pace. In addition to these, the courseware of programmes should be easily revisable, adaptable, easy to use and maintainable as well as economical to operate.

42. In pursuit of quality and excellence, the Colombo Plan is geared to a paradigm of hi-tech management training that are based on practices of modern management and field observation that encompasses these aspects:

◆ NEEDS OF CONSTRUCTION OF FRAMEWORK

Lifelong programmes are to be undertaken based on need based curriculum framework. This is delivered in a logical way (Periodic Law or Linnen's Classification Framework).

◆ COMPETENCY BASED MODULE SYSTEM

To implement the lifelong distance education and training programmes for hi-tech society. Competency Based Modules system will need to be applied. Basically the module system similar to those that were developed by the ILO for training skill development; but today it has advanced to higher education. Modules are essentially self-contained, self-instructional packages, with learning paced by each learner according to his or her individual needs and ability.

◆ FLEXIBLE MODULAR DISTANCE LEARNING

Considering individual constraints and job requirement this should provide immense benefit to the employees as well as the employers. Aspects such as contents, time and duration of study, place of study, strategy for study and the flexibility will help and motivate every individual to update and upgrade himself. This also sustains the learner's continuous achievement motivation.

4. TECHNOLOGY FOR MULTIMEDIA DISTANCE EDUCATION

43. Recent drastic advancement of the digital technologies such as the computer, communication and multimedia technology has made it possible to develop a teaching, and learning package for distance study. This is the main reason why it becomes possible to develop a self learning type of distance education programme, which can be delivered at the wish of the learners when ever and where ever. The people can join the study programmes according to their needs or interest.

44. Providers and developers could collect or exchange necessary materials such as courseware and clipmedia from other course developers or databases. As a result, courseware could be modified, revised and improved to meet the new course objectives. The learners have better access to programme through either package media or network media.

45. These technologies are available as inexpensive gadgets (especially on the learner's side) and are the main thrust of materializing the self-learning type distance education programmes.

46. To fulfil the requirement of the feature of these programmes, needed technologies are categorically identified as:

- *Computer technology:* Computers perform enough functions to process multimedia resources. Computer systems are advancing to give users access through the net to a screen which works as host. As a result, many computers have become more powerful and user friendly than before.
- *Communication technology:* The internet will contribute to promote the programmes. Course providers and users can offer and share information and course wares very easily.
- *Multimedia technology:* Multimedia is the best technology to implement curriculum in an efficient way in the field of technical education. Advancement of multimedia technology means it is easier to produce courseware and self-learning system as well as maintain, revise and improve them. Nowadays, a courseware producer can develop multimedia courseware using software for word processing.

47. Regardless of the different operating system, learners can use course material using any kind of machine. Course developers and learners can also provide information and material for others too.

5. AN EXAMPLE OF PACKAGE

48. There are tremendous numbers of examples for teaching and learning activities of using computer technology applied for education and training. Many of those examples would be possible

to apply for building up distance education and training through the Internet or package media. This package encourages self-learning or teaching types. An example is when a teacher puts almost all clip media into a database and can project the desired clips on screen of either the computer or a TV set. This will be possible to apply to various education and training programmes. The advantages of developing this kind of self-learning system are described as – Cost effective, Ease of handling, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Collecting and disseminating information and material, Co-operative work. The digital technologies are still advancing daily. As it is described above, it is quite possible to develop self-learning type courseware as long as the developer is familiar with the contents.

6. NEEDS OF NEW MECHANISM OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

49. A large number of teaching and learning resources are required to support technical developments and considering the magnitude of the task, it is very important that there be co-operation at the national, regional and international levels to set up a large database and also to develop and disseminate instructional resources based on the experiences of multimedia self-learning packages for technical education.

- This requires a great need for co-ordination and co-operation of effort amongst member countries to allow the dissemination of teaching and learning resource.
- Sharing Roles among Member Countries: to materialise this project, establishing an international support system amongst member countries is crucial to facilitate for the cause.
- Clearing House: Collect and disseminate the information related to technician education and training with global views. This house would provide information not only for programme developers but programme sponsors would refer to the clearing house to enrich the programme.
- Research and Development: to develop and improve the framework, teaching and learning resources, the instructional methodology and establishing the evaluation system, it requires constant review and updates and the research unit is given full responsibility.
- Technical support: to help programme providers in technical aspects giving information and services related to computer technology for developing course ware and course evaluation as well as guidance and consultancy.
- Co-ordination: Technical education and training programme would be run by co-operation of many concerned bodies and the project would not only deal with technician field but also relate with other fields such as natural science, and humanities. This aspect would require a co-ordinator to make a bridge inside the project.

50. This is imperative for institutions like Colombo Plan to assist in meeting these requirements from members.

What Can the Colombo Plan Do?

51. In this light, the sweep of the information age presents us with severe challenges, even threats. The new technology demands new skills, new mindsets, changes in economic and social policies, and shifts in cultural norms. The information revolution poses the danger that those who are already well advanced in these essential conditions – in science and technology, in education, in economic reforms, in modern organization and ways of thinking – will go faster and even further ahead. This means that, if we do not deliberately do something about it, the surge of the information revolution could widen the gap between developed and developing countries, and, within each nation, between those groups who can afford access to the new technology and those who cannot. We must ensure, then, that, as we strive to catch up with the more advanced economies, the gap narrows between those who have access to the benefits of technology and those who are in danger of being left out of the information age.

52. All this would require a veritable forced march to acquire and develop technology. This means not merely the ability to use it but the determination to join the great global adventure of expanding the frontiers of technology if we are to be truly part of the information and communications revolution.

53. This would in turn, necessitate a crash programme to raise the level of skills of the population as a whole. This is necessary because the creation of a knowledge society depends on achieving a critical mass of people plugged into such a society. We also need to ensure that one group or class does not hog the mastery of and access to technology and thus leave the rest of the people behind. The alternative would be to divide the nation in a potentially dangerous way. The broad upgrading of skills, of course, would need, from the public and private sectors, massive investments in education at all levels, especially for the poor, and, in many cases, the overhaul of the educational sector.

54. At the same time, the political decision must be made to create a policy environment that would foster the development of information and communications technology. This would include the further opening of ideas, wherever it comes from, and the provision of economic society to new ideas, wherever it comes from, and the provision of economic and social incentives to encourage the development and use of technology.

55. The imperative for institutions like Colombo Plan to assist in meeting these requirements from members.

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Special Issue I:

**Knowledge: The Key to Faster Growth of Member Countries in the
21st Century – The Role of the Colombo Plan**

Background paper prepared by the Colombo Plan Secretariat

1. One of the important tasks in the development economics has been to identify the prime movers of economic growth so that less developed economies can focus on these factors which accelerate growth. Lewis (1954) points to the difficulty in identifying a single engine of growth. According to him "every school has offered its own candidates for driver of the engine of growth. The physiocrats, agriculture; the mercantilists, export surplus; classists, the free markets; the marxists, capital; neo-classicists, entrepreneurship; fabians, government; the stalinists, industrialisation; the Chicago School, schooling."

2. Among the two factors which are generally associated with production i.e. labour and physical capital, much emphasis was given to the ways in which physical capital accumulation could be enhanced to promote growth. The linkage between capital and growth is through the capital output ratio. The reasoning was that if somehow the rate of capital accumulation can be increased, growth can be enhanced. Then following the economic reasoning, as capital accumulation in less developed countries increase they would tend to grow rapidly. However, this is not happening in the case of most developing countries.

3. Another factor that has been gaining the attention of economists was regarding the residual in the growth process that cannot be explained by labour and physical capital alone. Economists then started focusing their attention on human capital and how it contributes to productivity and growth. The role of human capital in growth has long been recognised by economists. Theodore Schultz (1961) points out that increases in national output has been larger compared with increases of land, manpower and physical reproducible capital. Investment in human capital is according to him the major explanation for this difference. Schultz points out that the residual in economic growth which cannot be explained through increases in physical capital and labour can be accounted for by improvements in the productivity of labour through investment in education.

4. The role of education in increasing productivity and income has been explained by Nelson and Phelps (1966). According to them education enhances a person's ability to reason, decode and understand information and that information processing and interpretation are important for performing or learning to perform many jobs. According to them in a technological progressive and dynamic economy, production management is a function requiring adaptation to change and that more educated a manager is, the quicker will he be to introduce new techniques of production. In other words educated people make good innovators so that education speeds up the process of technological diffusion.

5. Evidence of this has been found in the experience of developing countries in agricultural production. It has been observed that the farmers with a relatively high level of education have tended to adopt productive innovations earlier than the farmers with relatively little education. According to Nelson and Phelps "the better educated farmer is quicker to adopt profitably new

processes and production, since for him the expected pay off from innovation is likely to be greater and the risk likely to be smaller; for he is better able to discriminate between promising and un-promising ideas and hence less likely to make mistakes." This phenomenon, namely, that education speeds up technological diffusion, does operate in other sectors of the economy too.

6. Arrow (1962) has emphasised the role of learning by doing in-growth process. According to him learning by doing explains how favourable choices are made for problems that arise in the course of production.

7. A review of the development literature would clearly indicate the prominent role played by education and knowledge in initiating growth as well as accelerating it to create growing incomes for the citizens as well as enhance economic wellbeing of individuals.

8. Human capital development, while having a direct bearing on economic growth has also several beneficial effects on other economic and social indicators. According to Schultz investment in human capital relative to investment in non-human capital increases earnings relative to property income and that more equal distribution of investments in man equalizes earnings among human agents. Thus the investment in human capital would be a basic factor for reducing the inequality in the distribution in personal income. According to him, modifications in income transfers, in progressive taxation and in the distribution of privately owned wealth are relatively weak factors in altering the distribution of personal income. Experience of member countries of the Colombo Plan validate the economic theory that investment in human capital has positive effects on a whole array of developmental concerns including enhancing life expectancy, reduction in child mortality, achieving better health standards and nutritional levels and enabling greater participation of women in economic spheres and hence empowerment.

9. The role the Colombo Plan has performed in enhancing the human capital base of member countries has been quite substantial. It was due to the remarkable foresight and vision of the founding leaders of the Colombo Plan that they could identify an important variable in economic growth, that is, human capital development and having made it the pivot of all Colombo Plan technical collaboration activities. While recognising the need for physical capital for growth, the Colombo Plan consistently emphasised the necessity to raise the level of skills of people to absorb new technologies so as to utilise capital more efficiently. Thus, in the early years of the Plan the assistance of developed to developing countries consisted both of transfer of physical capital and technology as well as a strong component of skill development. Thus, while infrastructure in terms of roads, railways, dams, hospitals, fertilizer plants, cement factories, steel mills, etc. were being constructed in member countries, large numbers of people were being trained to manage this infrastructure and the burgeoning industrial economies in member countries.

10. The Colombo Plan has been the driving force in emphasising human capital as the bedrock of economic development, a factor which has been increasingly recognised as a key to unlock the door to prosperity of nations. Recognising that technical skills was a crucial prerequisite for growth, the Colombo Plan with the assistance of developed countries provided advance skill training to professionals of developing member countries in all aspects of economic and social activities which included training in the areas of general and technical education, medicine and health, food, agriculture and forestry, engineering, administration, social services, population studies, transport and communications, banking and finance, taxation, journalism, etc.

11. Having recognised the linkage between education and economic wellbeing, the Colombo Plan had right from the beginning maintained human development as central to economic development of countries. Indeed many of the member countries which had invested substantial resources to education and enhancing the human skills of their citizens were able to achieve faster rate of economic growth compared to countries that did not put education at the forefront of growth. All the programmes of the Colombo Plan lay great stress on human capital development at all levels including the operational, middle management as well as in the policy making spheres.

12. Since the establishment of the Colombo Plan fifty years ago, the institution using the concept of North-South and South-South cooperation has been able to assist considerably in the development of human resources in all aspects of economic and social activity in member countries. The world economic environment however has changed dramatically in the last fifty years. The world is entering into a knowledge and information revolution. While the steam engine symbolised the advent of the industrial revolution, the internet typifies the onset of the knowledge revolution. Alfred Marshal the famous British economist wrote about the impact of a new technology in human affairs in his "Principle of Economics." "The full importance of an epoch-making idea is often not perceived in the generation in which it is made. A new discovery is seldom fully effective for practical purposes till many minor improvements and subsidiary discoveries have gathered themselves around it." However, the pace with which discoveries and innovations occur in the internet, the epitome of the knowledge economy, is considerably faster than that could be imagined by Alfred Marshal 100 years ago. Internet stimulates innovation so splendidly because it offers such an open and neutral platform which is available to persons sitting anywhere in the globe. The opportunities available for developing countries to leap-frog the chasm which divides the rich and poor countries in terms of availability of knowledge, information and markets is truly astounding and the possibilities of enhancing growth are only being dimly understood.

13. While the world is entering into an age of knowledge revolution, the skill required for contributing as well as benefiting from such a New Economy has also changed dramatically. The range of skills which are now required is more of a creative and problem solving type rather than mere mechanical information. It has been seen that education which emphasise creativity and problem solving abilities provide greater impetus to growth and countries need to give more emphasis to bolstering the content of curriculum of schools to have greater impact on productivity.

14. It is now being increasingly recognised that economic achievement and education are intimately linked. The battle to raise the living standards and economic wellbeing of peoples in the world is fought in the class room. The new jobs in the knowledge economy in the new century would require workers who are literate, enumerate, adaptable and trainable. In other words, what the economies require in the next century is people who are well educated.

15. Since the Colombo Plan was established, some of the member countries which were developing countries when they joined the Colombo Plan and benefited hugely from the various Colombo Plan programmes have now graduated to the status of developed countries. Many member countries have become fast growing middle income countries. Several are in the early stages of growth. With this changed economic status of member countries, the Colombo Plan in the coming years can play even a greater role in the flow of technology and skill development using the concept of North-South and South-South cooperation among member countries of the Colombo

Plan. The middle income and the developed countries of the Colombo Plan which have the necessary human capital to take full advantage of the growth opportunities provided by the advent of the new economy based on knowledge can provide assistance to less well endowed countries of the Colombo Plan in the development of human capital in the areas of communication, information technology, e-commerce, financial sector innovation, use of technology in sustainable development, etc.

16. Several initiatives have been taken by the Colombo Plan in the recent times to further facilitate the human resources development activity. One such has been providing information on experts and institutions in member countries in different aspects of economic activities which can be utilised by all the countries of the Colombo Plan in getting appropriate technical assistance and inputs to their development efforts. The Colombo Plan has also a programme for networking of institutions of excellence in member countries so that there is greater interaction between the institutions in different countries working in the area of social and economic development for facilitating interaction as well as adoption of best practices. The Colombo Plan has also been trying to involve the private sector which is the lever for faster growth not only in human resource development but also in the area of trade, investment and technology transfer among member countries of the Colombo Plan.

17. As an inter-governmental organisation which has been emphasising human capital as an important variable in bringing about faster economic growth, and the experience gained in South-South cooperation in the last fifty years, the organisation can continue to play a key role in the coming years in the development of human resources capital in member countries. In an age where creative knowledge is setting the pace of economic development, the role of such an organisation would become even more central and the Colombo Plan can play an useful, constructive and facilitating role in accelerating growth as well as the wellbeing of the peoples of the Colombo Plan member countries in the next century using knowledge as a key concept in the process.

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Special Issue II:**The Role of Regional Organisations in Combating Drug Abuse
with Special Reference to the Colombo Plan***Background paper prepared by the Colombo Plan Secretariat***INTRODUCTION**

1. The problem of drug abuse is global in nature and affects almost all countries and regions of the world in varying degrees. No country or region can claim to be immune and countries of the Colombo Plan are no exception. At the international level, initiatives to combat drug abuse have been taken by the United Nations and its specialised agencies especially the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP).

2. However, as there are regional dimensions to the drug problem, which can best be addressed through regional and sub-regional cooperation and regional initiatives, regional organisations have an important role to play both in supply and demand reduction of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. While regional organisations like the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) have been looking at the problem, it was the Colombo Plan which took the first initiative in delineating the regional dimensions of the problem and established a new programme called the Drug Advisory Programme (DAP) in 1972 to address this issue in member countries.

3. As an organisation devoted to human resources development, drug abuse which directly affects the human capital of countries, had profound interest for the Colombo Plan. Drug addiction prevents the individual from realising his or her full potential in contributing to the social and economic development of his or her society and country. The social and economic costs of drug abuse place a great strain on the countries, both economically and socially, especially for developing countries.

4. The social consequences of drug abuse are many and varied. The impact of drug abuse is felt not just by the individual drug abuser but also by the family and society that he or she belongs to. Drug abuse undermines the very fabric of society and affects the resources of a country both material as well as human which could be put to more productive use.

5. This paper aims to update the CCM delegates regarding the magnitude of the drug problem, significant programmes of DAP and the future strategies in the combat against drugs in the Asia-Pacific region.

DRUG SITUATION IN THE COLOMBO PLAN REGION

6. Among the three world's largest sources of drugs, two are in Asia in the region covered by the Colombo Plan known as the "Golden Triangle" and the "Golden Crescent". Therefore, it is important that more attention be drawn to the drug situation and current trends in the Colombo Plan member countries.

7. The abuse of opiates, specifically heroin, still continues to be the major problem in South Asian member countries compared to South-east and East Asian countries which are now hit by the new wave of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS) particularly affecting the youth.

8. Some indicators of the situation in the Colombo Plan region, by major types of drug affecting the member countries, are given as follows.

OPIATES – Production, Trafficking and Consumption

9. World opium production reached a record high – around 5,800 metric tonnes, an increase by one-third – in 1999, even though global opium poppy cultivation declined. In the Colombo Plan region, while there was some decrease in production in South-east Asia during the last two years, production increased considerably in South Asia in 1999.

10. **Table 1** shows the illicit production of opium in member countries in the South west and South-east Asian regions. The last row in the table shows the amount of potential heroin production that may result from the available illicit opium.

Table 1: Illicit Production of Opium, 1990-1999
(in Metric Tonnes)

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
SW Asia										
Afghanistan	1,570	1,980	1,970	2,330	3,416	2,335	2,248	2,804	2,693	4,565
Pakistan	150	160	181	161	128	112	24	24	26	9
Sub-total	1,720	2,140	2,151	2,491	3,544	2,447	2,272	2,828	2,719	4,574
SE Asia										
Lao PDR	202	196	127	169	120	128	140	147	124	124
Myanmar	1,621	1,728	1,660	1,791	1,583	1,664	1,760	1,676	1,303	895
Thailand	20	23	14	17	3	2	5	4	8	8
Sub-total	1,843	1,947	1,801	1,977	1,755	1,794	1,905	1,827	1,435	1,027
GRAND TOTAL	3,563	4,087	3,952	4,468	5,299	4,241	4,177	4,655	4,154	5,601
Potential HEROIN	356	408	395	446	529	424	418	465	415	560

Data Extracted from: Global Illicit Drug Trends 2000, UN ODCCP Studies on Drugs and Crime – Statistics

Prepared by: Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Programme

11. Trafficking of opiates from Southwest Asia continues to be principally directed towards Europe. Large-scale consignments are moved by heavily armed convoys from Afghanistan to coastal areas of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, from where they may be ferried out to waiting "mother ships", for onward transportation to Western Europe and other geographic regions.

12. South-east Asian heroin, which was previously the most commonly encountered form in the United States now appears to be trafficked from Myanmar by road into China and, to a lesser extent, Thailand.

13. Abuse of opiates has become a global phenomenon. Developing countries in transition are notably affected. The main opiates markets are still and/or close to the countries of production in Asia and Australia. Very high annual prevalence rates, exceeding 1 percent of the population aged 15 and above, have been reported from a few Asian countries, notably the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, bordering Afghanistan, the world's largest producer of opium, as well as from Lao PDR and Myanmar in South-east Asia. Heroin produced from opium is still the No. 1 choice of drug in almost all countries.

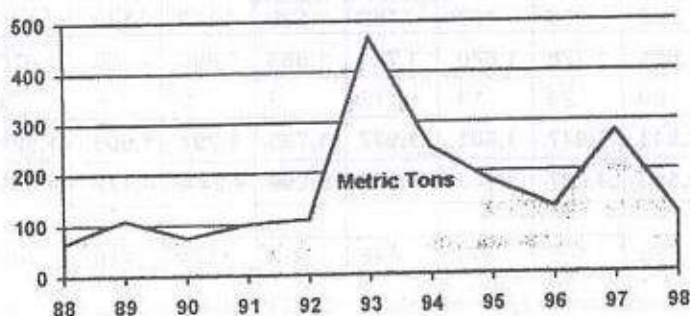
CANNABIS – Production, Trafficking and Consumption

14. During the last decade, 120 countries have reported illicit cultivation of cannabis in their territory. Cannabis cultivation is therefore known to be wide-spread around the globe. Seizures suggest that global cultivation of cannabis is probably expanding.

15. Interpol in its *Cannabis World Report 1999*, indicates that "there was a marked increase in worldwide trafficking in cannabis during 1998". The pattern of transportation of cannabis resin from Southwest Asia, which is usually to Europe, closely corresponds with that relating to opiates from the region, though the integration of illicit consignments into commercial traffic tends to be rather quicker. Similar correlations are evident in the patterns of cannabis herb and opiate trafficking from South-east Asia and of cannabis herb and cocaine trafficking from Columbia and Mexico, into the United States.

16. Trafficking in cannabis based on seizures of cannabis herb in the Asian region during the last ten years is reflected in **Figure 1**.

**Figure 1: CANNABIS HERB INTERCEPTED
ASIA – 1988-98**



Source: UN ODCCP Studies on Drugs and Crime Statistics 2000

17. Cannabis continues to be, by far, the most widely consumed drug worldwide. It is grown and consumed in practically all countries across the globe. A number of studies have shown that the THC¹ content of cannabis seems to be rising, largely a reflection of increased hydroponic cultivation in a number of developed countries. Abuse trends in 1999 show that consumption is increasing in Australia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.

ATS – Production, Trafficking and Consumption

18. Globally illicit ATS supply and demand are showing upward trends. In the East and South-east Asian regions, illicit production, trafficking and abuse are rising and there are indications that this region is increasingly emerging as a prime source for both ATS and their chemical precursors.

19. Global seizures of ATS made from 1990 to 1998 indicate the trafficking in volume terms which have become more concentrated in East and South-east Asia, Western Europe and North America. Please see **Figure 2**.

20. Methamphetamine manufactured in South-east Asia in some respects mirrors the trafficking patterns of heroin from the region, though extending to cover other countries of East and South-east Asia, such as Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Philippines.

21. Large increases in consumption have been reported from Thailand, Cambodia and Indonesia, and there are also indications that in Myanmar – which so far was only a producer of methamphetamine - abuse is starting to grow. First reports from India also suggests growing levels of ATS abuse, though starting from very low levels. Only Japan and the Philippines reported some decline in ATS abuse, relating to the situation in 1998. These trends are mainly based on observations in treatment centres. It is feared, however, that the reported decline, notably in the Philippines, might just be a temporary phenomenon. Over the last few years, an increasing number of cases concerning Ecstasy, illicitly produced in Europe, were reported to be entering markets in countries in the East and South-east Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

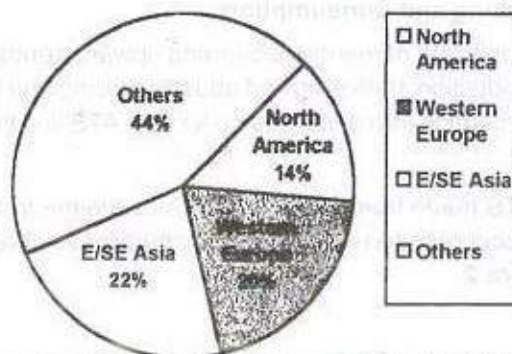
22. There is some evidence that heroin from the region is exchanged in Europe for Ecstasy and then trafficked to Asia. The bulk of Ecstasy seized in Asia is of European manufacture. It is also known that there is a vast production of methamphetamine in tablet form in the region. During 1998/99 in excess of 124 million of methamphetamine tablets were seized in South-east Asia².

¹ Delta-9 Tetra-hydrocannabinol.

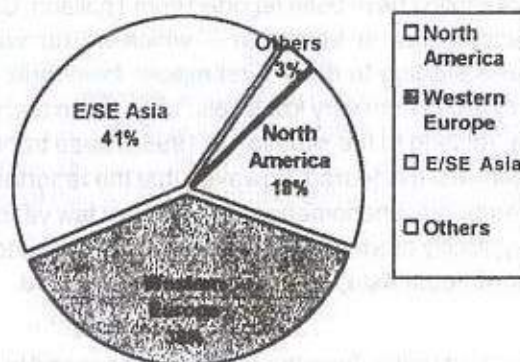
² INTERPOL, Weekly Intelligence Message. 34/99 Part II, Item IV.

**Figure 2: Distribution of ATS Seizures
1990 and 1998**

1990



1998



23. ATS abuse is part of mainstream youth culture, perceived to have social value to facilitate communication and create a sense of belonging. ATS abuse is also rampant in workplaces, particularly the land transport industry and in the entertainment arcades. Chronic ATS abusers develop psychotic symptoms such as delusional thinking and violent behaviour, consequently resulting in their diminished employment status.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION: Global Illicit Drug Trends 2000,
UN ODCCP Studies in Drugs and Crime – Statistics.

ESTABLISHMENT OF DRUG ADVISORY PROGRAMME (DAP)

24. While several organisations are actively involved in combating drug abuse globally, the Colombo Plan is the first and only regional inter-governmental organisation which addresses the issue in the Asia-Pacific region. The 22nd Colombo Plan Consultative Committee Meeting held in New Delhi, India in 1972 discussed the economic and social implications of drug abuse and concluded that drug abuse was of growing concern to all member governments. The Consultative Committee decided that the Colombo Plan should start a programme on drugs and the DAP of the Colombo Plan was established in 1972. With financial assistance from the Government of the United States of America, DAP started functioning in August 1973. The DAP was mandated with the task of consulting with member governments on the economic and social implications of drug abuse, encouraging member governments to introduce special measures such as establishing specialised agencies/authorities to deal with the problem, assist member governments in framing policies and projects to control the problem of drugs, assist in the organisation of seminars, workshops and similar activities and develop co-operative programmes designed to eliminate the causes and ameliorate the effects of drug abuse.

25. The DAP has since its establishment been periodically reviewed by groups of experts selected from member countries. The DAP to-date has been reviewed five times (1975, 1985, 1990, 1994 and 1998). The review group evaluates the DAP, recommends its extension and provides new directions for future programmes. The Fifth Review in 1998, recommended that the DAP should be made a regular and core programme of the Colombo Plan and this recommendation was adopted at the 37th Consultative Committee Meeting held in Manila, the Philippines in November 1998.

26. The DAP from its very inception has been regional in scope and character. While the United Nations and its specialised agencies were operating on a global scale, the DAP adopted a pioneering role directed towards identifying specific national, sub-regional and regional problems; initiating the process of policy evolution in member countries; assisting member countries involved in finding appropriate solutions on a bilateral or multilateral basis; and in encouraging national efforts among member countries towards the prevention and control of drug abuse in the Asia-Pacific region. The DAP's scope of activities has been expanded to meet the changing needs of member countries and like all Colombo Plan programmes, its main focus has been human resources development specifically in the sphere of drugs.

INITIATIVES OF DAP

27. In the seventies, the DAP concentrated in sensitising member governments and making them aware of the threats of drug abuse. It then went on to focus on institutional capacity building. The DAP was also instrumental in initiating the formation of the International Federation of Non Government Organisations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse (IFNGO) and the South Asian Federation of Non-Government Organisations (SAFNGO) which are now playing a crucial role in coordinating all NGOs in the region to prevent substance abuse. The network of NGOs also acts as a 'pressure-group' to assist governments to develop policies and strategies in this area and for the dissemination and sharing of information. IFNGO and SAFNGO have mobilised

NGOs, particularly those specialised in initiating community based prevention activities in their respective countries. IFNGO and SAFNGO are currently independent entities in drug abuse prevention.

28. The DAP also initiated the mechanism to forge greater cooperation and coordination among law enforcement agencies. The mechanism is HONLEA or Meeting of the Heads of Narcotic Law Enforcement Agencies. HONLEA has been very effective in monitoring the drug trafficking activities and in enhancing collaboration among countries in curbing the supply of drugs. HONLEA meets every two years and is now conducted under the aegis of the United Nations.

29. In the eighties, the DAP continued to play a catalytic role in the supply reduction of drugs in the region. One of the innovative projects initiated by the DAP was the Multicity Epidemiological Study Programme which conducted research on the trends and magnitude of the drug problem in major cities to monitor the drug situation and indirectly influence governments to formulate their policies and strategies. This initiative provided the necessary drug trends and data for member countries to be sensitive to the escalating menace.

30. The DAP initiated a study training/fellowship programme in the late eighties to train drug related officials of member countries in both demand and supply reduction strategies. This initiative continued in the nineties. One pioneering role played by the DAP then was the promotion of the Therapeutic Community Approach (TC) in the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers. TC is a treatment model developed by Daytop International of New York to help promote a 'change' in drug users in an organised and structured fashion within a family like setting in a residential programme. Today, TC is widely used by many Asian countries to treat their drug addicts.

31. In the late nineties, the DAP was actively involved as a key partner in implementing global initiatives to combat drug abuse. In collaboration with other organisations in an effort to bring together different agencies in the field of drugs operating in different regions, the first international conference "Global Initiative on Drug Demand Reduction: The Americas – Asia Dialogue" was held in Lima, Peru in May 1998. The Second Global Conference on Drug Abuse Primary Prevention: "Strategies & Possibilities for the Next Millennium" was held in Bangkok, Thailand in November 1999. The Third Global Conference on Drug Abuse Prevention was held from 25 to 29 September 2000 in Sicily, Italy. The theme for last year's conference was "Global Networking: New Frontiers in Drug Prevention for Youth and Communities". The success of these conferences is tremendous and has created an impact in the primary prevention field. In the Second Global conference, the Global Standing Committee was formed and one of the programmes implemented was the utilisation of cyberspace technology in drug abuse prevention. This initiative is another milestone of the DAP in its efforts to disseminate relevant information to the beneficiaries. Then in the Third Global Conference, the Global Standing Committee was replaced with the Global Network Coordination Committee to implement the resolutions of the Conference. In summary, the DAP has collaborated with the other regions as an important partner to organise the Global Conferences in drug abuse prevention. The Global Conference has become a hallmark of the DAP in its efforts to combat the drug scourge in the region.

32. The DAP has conducted in-country programmes in South and South-east Asia and the Pacific. In South Asia and the Pacific the focus was on the management of the treatment and rehabilitation for drug dependents in prisons/correctional settings. In South-east Asia, the DAP has developed a programme on re-integration and after-care for ex-addicts. The DAP also conducted several gender specific training programmes specifically for women counsellors in both South and South-east Asian countries. Recently the DAP embarked on the development of a support group network for recovering drug users.

33. The DAP has also established links with drug abuse prevention and control agencies of member governments and regional and international organisations. Joint initiatives such as legal workshops, global and regional level conferences and training programmes have been organised and good working relationships have been established with UN agencies working in the field of drug abuse prevention and control such as the UNDCP, the UN Commission of Narcotic Drugs (UNCND); the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB); WHO; ILO; and UNESCO.

34. A joint project on Precursor Control was organised in Colombo in August 1997 for participants from the South Asian countries with UNDCP-ROSA (Regional Office for South Asia). The DAP also organised a series of legal workshops jointly with UNDCP and the Commonwealth Secretariat with the aim of assisting the signatory countries in the region to implement the UN Conventions.

35. The DAP has also established working relationships with regional organisations such as SAARC and ASEAN. In the SAARC region the concept was to establish an apex regional coordinating body of NGOs involved in drug abuse prevention within the South Asian sub-region under the umbrella of SAARC. In 1995, at the Forum for NGOs in Drug Demand Reduction organised by the DAP in Dhaka, Bangladesh, a protem committee was formed which undertook to establish a South Asian Forum of Non-governmental Organisations (SAFNGO). In 1996, the DAP sponsored the members of the protem committee to attend a training programme in Developing Sustainable Demand Reduction Strategies focussing on the Student Community. This programme held in Colombo, Sri Lanka was followed by another programme in Nepal. The DAP has been in the forefront of developments to initiate and strengthen regional coalition and coordination of NGOs working in the field of drug abuse prevention.

36. Training programmes have been arranged for ASEAN governments and NGOs. Vietnam and Brunei, have been exempted as they are not members of the Colombo Plan. However, the DAP provided sponsorship to participants from Vietnam and China at the recent Second Global Conference with the hope that these countries would join the Colombo Plan and become partners in addressing the problem of drug abuse in Asia-Pacific region. In many cases, the ASEAN drug focal points are also the same as the DAP focal points. Since 1999, the Colombo Plan DAP Director attends the yearly Meeting of ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD). The DAP has closely cooperated with the ASEAN Secretariat in implementing regional programmes.

37. To meet the challenges that the problem of drug abuse poses in the 21st century where it is fast becoming more complex and multifaceted, the DAP has initiated a comprehensive primary

prevention approach as a strategy to curb the drug menace in the region. This is in accordance with the guiding principles of the United Nations in the combat against the drug menace. Furthermore, the DAP achieved another milestone when it embarked on the skills approach in prevention rather than cognitive-based approaches in drug prevention. Significantly, the DAP has begun to enhance the capabilities of focal points and NGOs to utilise cyberspace technology in networking and dissemination of drug information.

38. In short, the DAP has covered, all areas of drug abuse in both demand and supply reduction. Seventy-five per cent of the programmes have been on aspects relating to demand reduction and the rest on supply reduction i.e. primary, secondary and tertiary prevention activities, research, facilitating the enactment of legislation and training of officers, in-country training programmes, study visits and fellowship programmes. Since its inception, a total of 120 national, regional and international seminars, conferences, training programmes and workshops were organised, sponsored or co-sponsored by the DAP. About 4,500 officers from all member countries have been trained in the fields of law enforcement, legislation, primary prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, follow up/aftercare, epidemiological studies and research.

39. Reviewing the various programmes conducted over the years, it is seen that the DAP has successfully played a pioneering role in demand and supply reduction as follows:

- Evolution of anti drug policies/regulations in member countries;
- Initiating primary prevention strategy as the more effective measure to reduce the demand of drugs;
- Formation of NGOs to mobilise communities in drug prevention;
- Training of trainers in the Asia Pacific region in all aspects of drug prevention and control;
- Collaboration with the other regions/agencies in the implementation of global initiatives such as the First, Second and Third Global Conference in Drug Prevention;
- Utilisation of cyberspace technology/internet in drug abuse prevention; and
- Development of support group network for recovering drug users in countries.

FUTURE STRATEGIES

40. Drug abuse prevention has to make a difference as far as meeting the challenges of the new millennium. In primary prevention, the enhancement of social competence skills is pivotal in insulating the youth from the lure of drugs. Strategies have to be comprehensive, research driven, culturally appropriate, long-term, cost-effective and benefiting all direct beneficiaries. Similarly, in secondary and tertiary prevention, modalities have to be multidisciplinary and focused on relapse prevention strategies that include the re-integration of recovering drug users in society. The involvement of families should be encouraged in primary, secondary and tertiary prevention efforts.

41. On the other hand, supply reduction strategies in the future have to include measures to promote the cooperation of the judiciary and measures to counter money laundering. Drug producing countries need to adopt an action plan to eliminate the cultivation of illicit drug crops by the introduction of alternative development initiatives.

Skills Development

42. The UN Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan while communicating this year's message on the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26 June 2000, mentioned,

"There is in fact very little difference between industrialised countries and developing countries in this respect. Drugs move in all directions. Some of the world's highest addiction rates are now in developing countries. Drug abuse has become everyone's problem. Our task is to help today's youth find a positive path – a path without drugs and a path that will bring them into responsible and productive adulthood. There is no task more noble."

The DAP's programmes have been significant in addressing this issue by providing social competence skills to youth to refuse the negative peer pressures relating to drug use and to recovering drug users not to succumb to the lure of drugs.

43. In primary prevention, programmes will need to enhance not just the cognitive but also the affective domains of the individuals. Skills development has become the main thrust in most effective primary prevention programmes.

Utilisation of Cyberspace Technology

44. In this millennium, the cyberspace technology has developed with great impact on the societies in most countries. In line with the Declaration of the Second and Third Global Conference on Drug Abuse Primary Prevention, cyberspace technology will be utilised to disseminate information to the prevention specialists and 'at risk' populations.

45. Utilising cyber technology, information could be shared and disseminated at a fast rate and with great impact to the beneficiaries. Thus, it is only appropriate and timely for the Colombo Plan, being a regional organisation to play the pioneering role as the regional cyberspace site and the regional virtual clearinghouse for all drug prevention and control activities. Thus, prevention specialists, NGOs and most importantly, national lead organisations could access the regional website for advice, exemplary programmes implemented, drug prevention curricula for training of personnel, and regional epidemiological data. In relation to statistics, the website could collate and analyse all data received and eventually advise member countries regarding the seriousness of the problem and the future trends.

Monitoring the ATS Problem

46. The abuse of ATS has become a global problem presenting an increasing threat to the health, social and economic fabric of families, communities and nations in the region. Recognising this fact, the DAP will organise two training workshops this year for the countries in this region to enhance institutional capabilities to combat this scourge of ATS particularly in:

- the formulation of policy/laws in relation to strengthening controls over ATS and their precursors;
- monitoring the trends in the licit consumption of ATS and analyse the elements for major changes in the trends;
- enhancing collaboration between law enforcement agencies in countries relating to possible sources of precursors;
- reducing the demand for illicit ATS by implementing comprehensive primary prevention programmes in school, community and workplace settings; and
- establishing a regional clearinghouse for the purpose of information dissemination to member countries.

Programmes Targeting the Youth

47. From the epidemiological data of drug use in most countries, the majority of the drug users are youth below the age of 45 years old. Hence, the DAP will continue to implement programmes targeting the youth particularly by introducing preventive drug education in schools and initiating drug prevention programmes in workplaces. Both programmes will be effective as they target the youth, which is the most vulnerable group. Moreover the programme will be integrated into the core programme of the schools i.e. the curriculum, and in the workplaces, it will be implemented as an essential component of human resource management. Both programmes will focus on the enhancement of social competence/life skills of the direct beneficiaries.

Support Group Network Development

48. As studies have shown that recovery from addiction is often a progressive long and painful journey from dependence on drugs to a healthy lifestyle. In the recovery journey, the recovering addict often relapses and requires multiple treatment interventions to facilitate his abstinence. Cognizant of the above fact, the DAP has embarked on the initiative to develop support group network for recovering drug users to prevent their relapses and assist their community in the field of treatment of other drug users.

DAP Publications

49. In view of the lack of guidebooks based on best experiences in the region, the DAP has set to provide several publications relating to key areas. Early this year, the DAP published two important guidebooks based on regional experiences such as: 1) *"A Primer on Relapse Prevention"* for counsellors and treatment practitioners in the treatment and rehabilitation of drug users, and 2) *"Skills for Drug Prevention"* for trainers to enhance prevention practitioners to enhance the lifeskills or various target groups in order to insulate them from succumbing to negative peer pressures to use drugs. To add to the above publications, DAP will embark on a guidebook of best practices in drug prevention in the region that could be replicated in countries without having to go through the

processes of programme development. Programmes featured in the guidebooks have been validated, evaluated and most importantly have produced the desired results. Another guidebook in the pipeline of DAP is a manual for preventive drug education in schools.

FUNDING

50. Initially the DAP was funded by the United States Government. But subsequently in addition to the United States of America, the Governments of Japan and Australia also became major donors to the DAP. The following member countries also make financial contributions to the DAP: Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The DAP has also received funds from the European Union and NORAD to implement selected projects. The contributions from 1995 to 2000 received by DAP from member countries is at *Annex I*.

51. The DAP would like to take this opportunity to express its sincere gratitude and appreciation to all donors and member countries for their continued support. However, considering the challenges of the new emerging drugs and strategies to be initiated by the Colombo Plan to counter them, it is expected that the major donors and member countries would continue to increase their contributions to the DAP. These contributions would enable the DAP to assist member countries to face these challenges more effectively.

CONCLUSION

52. Over the years, since the inception of the DAP in the Colombo Plan, significant and successful programmes and initiatives have been implemented to assist member countries particularly in the Asia-Pacific region to combat the drug scourge. The DAP will continue to enhance both the institutional and human resource capabilities in all aspects of demand and supply reduction. The DAP, with the support of member countries, can make a difference in the quest for achieving drug free communities in the Colombo Plan countries.

Annex I

**Voluntary Contributions from member countries to DAP
including Project Funds 1995-2001
(in US Dollars)**

Financial Year	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/2001
Member Country	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$
Australia	46,610.50	23,770.00	21,541.00	18,585.00	19,410.00	17,580.00
Bangladesh	-	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	-
India	4000.00	4000.00	4000.00	4000.00	4000.00	4000.00
Indonesia	2000.00	-	-	-	2990.00	-
Japan	155,000.00	155,000.00	140,000.00	70,000.00	70,000.00	70,000.00
Rep. of Korea	5,000.00	5,000.00	-	-	-	-
Malaysia	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	-
Nepal	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	-	-
Pakistan	1000.00	986.00	1000.00	1000.00	1,000.00	-
Philippines	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2500.00	-
Singapore	5000.00	5000.00	5000.00	5000.00	5000.00	-
Sri Lanka	-	4,000.00	-	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Thailand	5000.00	5000.00	5000.00	5000.00	5000.00	-
USA	206,000.00	300,000.00	185,000.00	200,000.00	200,000.00	-
Total	438,110.50	512,256.00	371,041.00	317,085.00	319,900.00	

NOTE:

- Contribution yet to receive.

DAP Financial Year = 1 July to 30 June

Contributions received after 28 February 2001 are not recorded herein.

Report of the Secretary-General Colombo Plan Secretariat

1. What I propose to present in my report is a brief account of the strategy set out by the organisation in the last two years since the conclusion of the 37th Consultative Committee Meeting (CCM) in Manila in November 1998, important accomplishments of the organisation in the last two years and outlining a vision for the organisation beyond fifty years. While I will be touching on some significant aspects of the different programmes of the Colombo Plan, details of the programme activities are available in the Annual Reports which have been circulated.

Introduction

2. At the 37th CCM in Manila in November 1998, an Agenda for Action in the 21st Century titled "MACOPA" was broadly approved by the Consultative Committee to chart the course of action of the Colombo Plan. While there were several themes included in the MACOPA, two important goals suggested were for the Colombo Plan to emerge as a leader in south-south cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, and to continue to give priority to human resource development in enhancing the pace of development of member countries. It was against the backdrop of MACOPA that most of the activities of the Colombo Plan were planned in the last two years and the accomplishments and initiatives as they relate to the MACOPA would be highlighted in my presentation.

Vision Statement

3. Soon after my assumption of office as Secretary-General two years ago, the first thing I set about doing was to have a Vision Statement for the organisation keeping in view the Agenda for Action in the 21st Century as well as the recent attempts taken to revitalise the Colombo Plan. While certain steps were taken to reinvigorate the organisation, there was much left to be done. The starting point in the strengthening of the organisation was to enunciate a clear vision for the organisation towards which its capabilities could be directed. The vision articulated for the organisation was for it "to play a proactive catalytic role in enabling member countries to fully capitalise on the ever expanding opportunities for speedy economic growth and wellbeing of the peoples of member countries which the new knowledge economy provides by continuous striving towards excellence in human capital development and south-south cooperation and emerge as a premier inter-governmental organisation in the region in propagating creative ideas for economic and social development basing on successful country experiences."

4. After years of moderate level of activities, what the organisation needed to do was to reposition itself in the light of changing global economic environment as they relate to member countries and concentrate on selected areas where it could provide value addition and programmes useful to member countries. In other words, the organisation has to constantly evaluate and refashion its activities in the light of changing economic environment and needs of member countries and emerge as an organisation with creative ideas. The need to transform the organisation into a thinking organisation constantly striving for excellence in its activities and capable of generating innovative ideas was felt as a prerequisite for strengthening the organisation as well as expanding the role of the Colombo Plan. The last two years have seen considerable success in this direction.

Systemic Improvements

5. One of the weaknesses of the organisation was that owing to the lack of funding and limited range of issues covered, the programmes of the Colombo Plan were not very robust. On account of this, the capability of the organisation for short to medium term planning in programmes was limited. In the last two years, several of the above weaknesses in the programmes could be overcome by strengthening as well as rationalising the programmes. Attention was given to the efficient use of resources so that programmes could be conducted in a cost-effective manner and a larger number of programmes could be executed with limited resources. In order to enhance the fund raising capability of the organisation, the quality of programmes was enhanced substantially. Further the standards of governance in the organisation was enhanced stressing transparency, accountability and responsibility, as a means to increase efficiency and promote excellence.

Reshaping Programmes

6. In order to make the programmes of the Colombo Plan attractive to member countries as well as to attune the programmes to the needs of member countries, the issues covered under the programmes were greatly expanded. As a means to increase the efficiency of the programmes and tap the synergies within the organisation, after careful analysis, some rationalisation of programmes was made under which the previous Programme of Private Sector Development and the Programme of South-South Technical Cooperation were combined to form a single programme. Funding for programmes was also made more broad based by raising resources from non-member governments as well as other inter-governmental organisations. In programme delivery, there was greater collaboration with other inter-governmental agencies. Some of the results of the fund raising activity outside of member countries included funding from the Government of Norway; funding by OPEC Fund for International Development (OPEC); International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and Asian Development Bank (ADB). Funding within the organisation from member countries included the establishment of the India Millennium Fund for programmes conducted in India; enhanced funding by donor countries such as USA, Japan, Australia and Korea and larger numbers of third country programmes in Singapore. Broad basing of funding as well as greater collaboration with other organisations were some of the recommendations in the MACOPA.

Programme for Public Administration

7. In the last two years, the Programme for Public Administration (PPA) reoriented its programmes by ascertaining the needs of member countries with regard to areas and spheres in which they would like the Colombo Plan to conduct programmes. For this a workshop for focal points as well as institutes of excellence was conducted in February 2000 to ascertain the emerging and unmet needs of developing member countries and recommendations emanating from it were used as guidelines for developing projects under the PPA. This regular collaboration with focal points and the strengthening of focal points was one of points highlighted in MACOPA. Programmes under PPA were enhanced in scope in the last two years covering such areas as macro economic reforms, fiscal reforms including pension fund reforms, environmental issues and sustainable development, poverty alleviation, issues of urban governance, Information Technology (IT) in government, quality and productivity issues in public sector, managing knowledge

workers, etc. The PPA also enlarged its collaboration with institutes in the region including, APO, SEAFDEC, INTAN, DFID, ADB, City Net, UN-TUGI (The Urban Governance Initiative), UNESCAP, UN University, etc. The last two years saw a substantial increase in the number of programmes conducted by PPA and its coverage. The years 2000-2001 saw a record increase in the programmes conducted by the PPA numbering 23.

Drug Advisory Programme

8. The 37th CCM had made the Drug Advisory Programme (DAP) a regular programme of the Colombo Plan. The DAP programmes in the last two years covered primary, secondary and tertiary prevention. Areas covered included re-entry and aftercare of ex-addicts based on the TC method, training of women counsellors, developing sustainable substance abuse prevention strategies by using community resources, treatment and rehabilitation in correctional settings, network development and community empowerment, training of trainers in skills for drug prevention, etc. The DAP programmes were strengthened through its increased collaboration with NGOs and community based organisations. Another initiative of the DAP was its collaboration with other international organisations in global primary prevention. A noteworthy effort of the DAP in the last two years was the use of cyberspace technology and cyberspace training in drug abuse prevention in collaboration with member countries, NGOs, non-member countries, and inter-governmental organisations regionally as well as globally. As part of the 50th anniversary celebrations, the DAP has started an internship programme of youngsters who have completed school to enable young people to be aware of the activities of the DAP as well as the Colombo Plan. The DAP has also had collaborative programmes with EU, UNESCO and also enhanced its programme funds.

Private Sector Development Programme

9. The Private Sector Development Programme (PPSD) also saw an increase in the coverage of areas as well as broad basing of its funding. Coverage of programmes included such issues as technology transfer as they relate to SMEs, joint ventures for export oriented SMEs, export promotion and development for SMEs, financial management for SME managers, management of capital for SMEs, use of modern financial market by SMEs, issues of net working, e-commerce, etc. Through the efforts of the Colombo Plan, funding for this programme was received from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Korea Fund, the OPEC Fund and NORAD. The project-by-project programme implementation was another innovation whereby themes which are not part of the regular programmes but are of use to member countries were included in programmes when funds could be raised through other international organisations and non-member governments. The project on international trade issues conducted under the project-by-project approach through funding from NORAD was highly appreciated by member governments. The PPSD also updated the web and data bank with regard to institutes and experts in the Colombo Plan region. It is proposed to expand the data bank on experts and institutes both in the public sector as well as private sector for which periodic information updates from member governments would be required.

Publications

10. The Colombo Plan was lacking in quality publications for its programmes and one of the important activities in the last two years has been to increase the number of publications as well

as the quality of publications in all of the programmes of the Colombo Plan. In the last two years, the Colombo Plan has seen a dramatic increase in its publications. These include three international trade issue conference reports, DAP publications including a manual for trainers in skills for drug prevention, a primer on relapse prevention, compilation on best practices in drug prevention, the Colombo Plan-UNESCO project on drug abuse prevention in Asia for marginalised youth, and the needs assessment report of PPA. Besides its regular publications of FOCUS, Annual Reports and programme activities, the Secretariat's other publications enhanced the reach of the Colombo Plan to member countries, other international organisation and non-member countries. This has been a significant accomplishment in the last two years.

Secretariat Activities

11. The Secretariat assisted the Colombo Plan Council in its regular quarterly meetings and meetings of the Standing Committees on Administrative and Financial Matters in their deliberations in the last two years. The Working Group on Amendments to the Constitution met several times and reviewed the Colombo Plan Constitution with a view to increasing the scope of the Colombo Plan as well as bringing about structural improvements. Two international officers, one for the Drug Advisory Programme and the other for the Programme on Private Sector Development were recruited by the Colombo Plan Secretariat in consultation with the member countries. The last two years has seen greater interaction of the Colombo Plan with other organisations, such as UNDP, ADBI, ADB, IWMI, SEAFDEC, APO, City Net, UN ESCAP, UN-TUGI, UN University, WTO, UNCTAD, etc. During the last two years, I had the opportunity to visit several member countries as well as represent the Colombo Plan in different international forums which helped to increase the visibility of the organisation as well as to promote greater collaboration as well as tap funding opportunities for its programmes.

Areas Needing Attention

12. One of the special features of the Colombo Plan is that the budget of the Colombo Plan is shared equally by all member countries and the member countries' contribution is relatively small compared to other inter-governmental organisations. However, it has been noticed that because of non-payment and untimely payments of member country contributions, the operations of the organisation are getting affected. Recently, the Council also suggested that this matter needs to be clearly addressed by the member governments. While several steps have been taken to consolidate programme funding, this is an area which requires greater support from member governments so that funding for programmes can become more stable enabling the organisation to undertake medium term planning for programmes in order to enhance its efficiency. Another suggestion I would like to place before the Consultative Committee Meeting is the revival of the long-term fellowship programme which was the hallmark of the Colombo Plan in the early years. One other aspect which I would like to bring to the notice of the Consultative Committee is the need for a permanent headquarters building for the Colombo Plan. It is only fitting that this prestigious and illustrious organisation has its own headquarters. I would also like to suggest to the Consultative Committee that the Consultative Committee Meeting be elevated to ministerial level as was before 1994 in view of the enhanced level of activities and importance of human resource development and south-south co-operation in the region.

New Initiatives

13. In the last two years, there has been several new initiatives undertaken by the organisation. One among them is the Colombo Plan Private Sector initiative where the private sector has been made a partner in Colombo Plan programmes. Indeed, there is not only participation by the private sector in Colombo Plan programmes, but also several programmes were conducted with the support of the private sector. Another initiative has been to enhance collaboration with non-member countries as well as other inter-governmental organisations and NGOs in Colombo Plan programmes. The illustrative example of this has been the Norway funded project on international trade issues, the programme on environment issues conducted by the TATA Energy Research Institute (TERI), a private sector organisation, programmes conducted on financial sector reforms in collaboration with the financial institutes and collaboration with ADBI, ADB, APO, SEAFDEC, IWMI, etc. Another accomplishment in the last two years has been the creation of linkages with centres of excellence in member countries by conducting programmes in such centres as well as using resource persons from other institutes of excellence in the region. Another initiative of the Colombo Plan in the last two years has been the Colombo Plan-Africa initiative whereby under the concept of south-south cooperation experiences in economic and social development in the Colombo Plan region was shared with the African Continent for the mutual benefit of African countries as well as Colombo Plan member countries.

Beyond Fifty Years

14. With the emergence of the knowledge economy, the ideas propagated by the Colombo Plan fifty years ago of human capital development as the key to unlock the doors to prosperity of nations would become even more important. The concept of enhancing the wellbeing of the peoples of member countries through co-operative effort releases the creative energies of nations and sparks off a sense of participation and solidarity in economic processes which transcends boundaries. The leadership of the Colombo Plan in promoting partnership of countries and partnership of people in development and in betterment of the welfare of the people of the region would have had an even greater role against the backdrop of globalisation. The Colombo Plan countries have rich experience in development processes as well as new paradigms for economic and social transformation which have relevance not only to the Colombo Plan countries but also to countries in other regions. Information technology based knowledge economy provides splendid opportunities for growth for developing economies of the Colombo Plan region as the new economy will be triggered more by creativity, innovative and new ideas rather than mere availability of physical capital. Thus, the Colombo Plan an organisation focusing on human capital development will have an ever increasing role to play in the 21st century. Above all the Colombo Plan will have to keep to its credo of striving for excellence in its activities and programmes so as to emerge as well as maintain its position as a premier, regional inter-governmental organisation in the spheres of its specialisation.

Statement by the Consultative Committee on the 50th Anniversary of the Colombo Plan

On the 50th Anniversary of the Colombo Plan, the delegations of the member countries attending the 38th Consultative Committee Meeting held from 2 to 4 July 2001, in Colombo, Sri Lanka,

re-affirmed the role of the Colombo Plan in human resource development and South-South Technical Cooperation in the region,

emphasised the relevance of the Colombo Plan in the 21st century, for further strengthening its bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes in responding to the changing needs of member countries in the new global economic environment,

called upon member governments, in view of the critical role of the private sector in generating growth, employment and enhancing market economy, to encourage involvement of the private sector to be an effective partner in the development process and programmes of the Colombo Plan, and

further emphasised the need to take the fullest advantage of the knowledge-based economy including information and communication technology (ICT) and requested the Colombo Plan Secretariat to take this into account when implementing its technical cooperation programmes.

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