



SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMIES OF CENTRAL ASIA (SPECA)

Fifth Session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-Based Development

(Baku, Azerbaijan, 4 December 2013)

REVIEW OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION IN 2012 AND 2013

This report contains activities carried out/to be carried out by the UNECE and ESCAP secretariats within the framework of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (PWG on KBD), or addressing topics within its thematic areas in 2012 and 2013. These activities are in line with the Programme of Work for 2012-2013 of the PWG, which was adopted at the fourth session of the PWG on KBD in Baku, Azerbaijan on 25 November 2011.

The UNECE and ESCAP secretariats, within the framework of implementation of the Programme of Work of the SPECA PWG on KBD, organized/will organize the following capacity-building events in 2012 and 2013:

- Implementation of the project *“Building the capacity of SPECA countries to adopt and apply innovative green technologies for climate change adaptation”*, funded by UN Development Account. Within this project, the Joint National Seminar and Stakeholder Meeting on Promotion and Financing of Innovative Green Technologies were held in Bishkek on 7-9 November 2012. The National Seminar and Stakeholder Meeting on Promotion and Financing of Innovative Green Technologies was held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on 15-17 May 2013 and the Joint National Seminar and Stakeholder Meeting on Promotion and Financing of Innovative Green Technologies was held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 23-25 October 2013. The final event of the project *“Regional Meeting on Promotion and Financing of Innovative Green Technologies”* was organized by UNECE in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the current Chair of SPECA, and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) as the Expert Segment of the 2013 SPECA Economic Forum *“Inclusive and Sustainable Development through Economic Cooperation”* in Almaty, Kazakhstan, 19-20 November 2013.
- Implementation of the *UNECE project “Innovation Performance Reviews”*. The *Innovation Performance Review of Kazakhstan* was prepared as a United Nations publication (ECE/CECI/14) and issued in April 2012. The follow-up

field-based workshop on the Innovation Performance Review of Kazakhstan was held on 11 October 2012 in Kazakhstan, in order to present the Russian version of the Innovation Performance Review of Kazakhstan. In addition, within the framework of this project, UNECE contributed to a seminar on a Methodology for the Development of Regional Innovation Systems in Kazakhstan, Astana, 19 April 2013, organized by the National Agency for Technological Development of Kazakhstan.

- Implementation of the *UNECE project “PPP Readiness Assessments in Selected Countries of Central Asia”*.
 - (i) The fact-finding mission for undertaking the *PPP Readiness Assessment in Kyrgyzstan* took place in Bishkek on 10-14 September 2012.
 - (ii) The fact-finding consultations for undertaking the *PPP Readiness Assessment in Tajikistan* were held in Dushanbe on 24-28 September 2012. The Seminar on the PPP Readiness Assessment of Tajikistan took place in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on 17-18 September 2013.
 - (iii) Final reports of the PPP Readiness Assessments of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have been finalized. Russian versions of these reports are currently being prepared.
- UNECE Session on Intellectual Property and Economic Growth at the 5th Astana Economic Forum, Astana, Kazakhstan, 22-24 May 2012.
- UNECE Seminar on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy and Legal Issues for the Heads of Ministries and Agencies of Turkmenistan, Ashgabat, 13-14 June 2012.
- UNECE contribution to the International Conference “The Role and Importance of Small Business in the Implementation of Social and Economic Policy in Uzbekistan”, organized by the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Tashkent, 14 September 2012.
- Session on Gender Aspects of Innovative Entrepreneurship at the 3rd UNECE Forum of Women Entrepreneurs “Building partnerships to close the entrepreneurship gender gaps in the UNECE region”, Baku, Azerbaijan, 14-15 November 2012.
- High-level segment of the 65th session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe on 9-11 April 2013 in Geneva, on the topic, “Economic developments and challenges in the ECE region: the role of innovation in creating a dynamic and competitive economy”
- UNECE contribution (session on PPP Development in ICT/Broadband) to International Conference on Telecommunications and Information Technologies (BAKUTEL 2013), Baku, Azerbaijan, 2-5 December 2013.

- ESCAP/APCICT training workshop on “Primer Series on ICTD for Youth” for university professors and administrators, Baku, Azerbaijan, 8-10 February, 2012.
- ESCAP/APCICT training-of-trainers workshop on “Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders”, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 5-7 June 2012.
- ESCAP/APCICT regional workshop on ICT for disaster risk management, climate change, and green growth, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 5-8 June 2012.
- ESCAP/APCICT contribution to regional e-government training organized by the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Astana, Kazakhstan, 17-21 September 2012.
- ESCAP/APCICT contribution to a training workshop on “ICTD for Youth” and “Social Media for Development”, organized by Tashkent University of Information Technologies (TUIT), Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 27-28 February 2013.
- ESCAP/APCICT contribution to the localization into Turkmen of ICT for development training modules for government officials, undertaken by the Supreme Counsel of Science and Technologies under the President of Turkmenistan, June 2013.
- ESCAP/APCICT co-organized the e-Leadership International Conference, in collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Open Society Institute (OSI), Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 5 June 2013.
- ESCAP/APCICT training workshop on the use of ICT in disaster risk management, climate change and green growth, co-organized with UNDP, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 7-8 June 2013.
- ESCAP/APCICT national workshop on ICT for development for government officials and youth, co-organized in partnership with the Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation and the Association of Internet Service Providers of Tajikistan, Romit, Tajikistan, 20-23 August, 2013.
- Implementation of the ESCAP project “Expanding connectivity of North and Central Asia with the Asia-Pacific region through the development of ICT infrastructure and networks”;
 - Map of the fiber-optic backbone network in Asia and the Pacific, including North and Central Asia, launched in Bangkok, Thailand, 18 November 2013;
 - In-depth study on the terrestrial broadband infrastructure in SPECA countries, presented in Baku, Azerbaijan, 3 December 2013;

- ESCAP expert consultation on the Asian Information Superhighway and Regional Connectivity, Baku, Azerbaijan, 3-4 December 2013.

Representatives of the SPECA member countries also participated/will participate in the following events:

- PPP Days 2012, Geneva, 21-24 February 2012.
- Special Capacity-building/Policy Dialogue Segment at the occasion of the fourth session of the UNECE Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships, Geneva, 24 February 2012.
- UNECE Applied Policy Seminar “Policies for Innovation in the 21st Century: Building Strategies for Regions of Innovation”, Geneva, 12-13 April 2012.
- UNECE International Policy-oriented Conference "Promoting competition as a driver of innovation, with particular consideration of intellectual property aspects", Geneva, 21-22 June 2012.
- Multi-stakeholder Meeting on the UNECE Public-Private Partnerships Initiative, Geneva, 5 December 2012.
- Seventh session of the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration, Geneva, 5-7 December 2012.
- International Conference “Master Class on PPPs in CIS countries: Towards the best practices, Moscow, Russian Federation, 11-12 December 2012.
- Fifth session of the Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships, Geneva, Switzerland, 5-6 February 2013.
- International Conference “Entrepreneurship and Innovation: Making Things Work Better”, Dubrovnik, Croatia, 23-24 May 2013.
- Workshop “Defining Excellence in PPPs: Meeting of the International PPP Specialist Centers”, Geneva, Switzerland, 25 June 2013.
- International Conference “Sustainable Growth through Long-term Investments”, Moscow, Russian Federation, 17-18 July 2013.
- Sixth session of the UNECE Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies, Geneva, Switzerland, 10-11 October 2013.
- High-level Capacity-building Workshop on Public-Private Partnerships for CIS Countries, Moscow, Russian Federation, 22 October 2013.

- ESCAP expert group meeting on Geo-referenced Disaster Risk Management Information System in Asia-Pacific Region, Bangkok, Thailand, 15-17 February 2012.
 - ESCAP regional workshop on Geo-referenced Disaster Risk Management Information System for South and South-West Asia, and Central Asia, Kathmandu, Nepal, 10-12 July 2012.
 - ESCAP/APCICT 1st Partners Meeting of the “Primer Series on ICTD for Youth”, Incheon, Republic of Korea, 6-9 November 2012.
 - ESCAP Committee on Information and Communication Technologies, third session, Bangkok, Thailand, 20-22 November 2012
 - ESCAP/APCICT 4th Partners Meeting of the “Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders”, Incheon, Republic of Korea, 6-9 November 2012.
 - ESCAP 16th session of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (RESAP), Bangkok, Thailand, 17-18 December 2012.
 - ESCAP Intergovernmental Meeting on Asia-Pacific Years of Action for Applications of Space Technology and the Geographic Information System for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017, Bangkok, Thailand, 18-20 December 2012.
 - ESCAP/APCICT Regional Training of Trainers Workshop on “Social Media for Development”, Incheon, Republic of Korea, 20-23 May, 2013.
 - ESCAP expert consultation on the Asian Information Superhighway and Regional Connectivity, Manila, Philippines, 24-25 September 2013.
 - ESCAP/APCICT 5th Partners Meeting of “Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders”, Bali, Indonesia, 27-29 November 2013.
 - ESCAP/APCICT 2nd Partners Meeting of the “Primer Series on ICTD for Youth”, Incheon, Republic of Korea, 10-13 December 2013.
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