

**International Conference on Strengthening Sub-regional Economic Cooperation in Central Asia and the Future Role of SPECA**

**MEETINGS OF THE THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS  
(Astana, Kazakhstan, 25 – 26 May 2005)**

**Brief report**

The thematic Working Groups, with the participation of the SPECA member countries and representatives of international and other organizations, considered the proposed SPECA Work Plan 2005-2007 elaborated jointly by UNECE and UNESCAP, including 9 on-going and 19 planned projects in transport, water, energy and the environment, trade, statistical capacity building and ICT for development. Some SPECA member countries tabled additional project proposals.

Many participants expressed interest in the technical cooperation projects and stressed the importance of a country driven process. Several organisations recognized the need for much closer inter-agency coordination in the sub-region and sharing information on technical cooperation projects to create synergies and avoid duplications. The participants in the thematic Working Groups welcomed the proposal to establish the SPECA Project Working Groups on Statistics, Trade and ICT for development, for consideration of the Special Session of the SPECA Regional Advisory Committee.

It was agreed that comments made by the participants on the Work Plan's projects along with the additional project proposals tabled by some SPECA member countries would be further considered by the relevant SPECA Project Working Groups.