

BRIEFING PAPER ON E.S.C.A.P.

(ECONOMIC & SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA & THE PACIFIC)

Sept. 1983

Briefing Paper
on
ESCAP

What is ESCAP?

ESCAP is an acronym for the United Nation's Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. It is the regional arm of the United Nations for Asia and the Pacific with headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand. It serves 2,400 million people (in 1979), or 55 percent of the world's population. A liaison office for the Pacific was opened in Nauru in October 1980.

ESCAP, as one of the five regional economic commissions of the United Nations, is administratively responsible to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. At the same time it is responsible to its member countries and is subject to their guidance in policy matters under the overall supervision of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

The main organ of ESCAP is its Commission, its highest legislative forum. Under the Commission are nine legislative committees covering specific (substantive) fields and a number of other subsidiary bodies.

What is ESCAP's Mandate?

To assist member countries in solving their economic and social problems. To do this ESCAP has developed programmes at three levels: at the regional level, to combat region-wide problems; at the subregional level; and at the country level by assisting individual Governments in planning and implementing balanced development programmes. Also inter-regional to assist countries of the regions. Although ESCAP does not itself provide capital resources (i.e., ESCAP is not a funding organization), it has helped to establish institutions to attract funds for regional and subregional projects, which, in turn, supply development aid.

The ESCAP secretariat provides secretariat services for the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. It undertakes study, research and other activities in the Commissions terms of reference. It provides advisory services to Governments at their request and contributes to the planning and organization of programmes of technical co-operation.

What is the scope of ESCAP's activities?

The work of ESCAP is conducted through its annual Commission sessions and through meetings of its legislative committees and other subsidiary bodies.

The scope of its activities includes food and agriculture; development planning; industry, technology, human settlements and the environment; and international trade, raw materials and commodities and special measures for the least developed; landlocked and developing island countries; natural resources; population; shipping, ports and inland waterways; social development; statistics; transport, communications and tourism; information systems and documentation services; integrated rural development and transnational corporations.

What is Guam's Involvement in ESCAP?

Guam was admitted as an associate member of ESCAP in 24 July 1981 under Council decision 1981/188. Prior to becoming an associate member the interest of Guam and other U.S. Territories ^{was} ~~were~~ represented by the United States.

Guam participated in the Commission Session in 1982 and in 1983. We have also received advisory services and attended workshops/seminars in the area of statistics, fertilizers, environment (in cooperation with SPREP), population (in cooperation with SPC), and development planning.

Who are the visiting U.N. ESCAP dignitaries?

Mr. S. A. M. S. Kibria is the Executive Secretary of ESCAP. He oversees the entire

operations of ESCAP. The responsibility and functions of the Office of the Executive Secretary are executive direction and management, policy guidance, co-ordination and external relation.

Mr. Enam A. Chaudhury is the Special Assistant to the Executive Secretary and Secretary of the Commission. He assists the Executive Secretary in the consideration of all matters requiring his personal attention and in the maintenance of the external relation of ESCAP.

What is the purpose of their trip?

The Executive Secretary wishes to discuss with the heads of state and other government officials his proposal to merge the Pacific Liaison Office based in Nauru and the United Nations Development Advisory Team (UNDAT) based in Suva, Fiji as a means of increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the operation of ESCAP in the Pacific. A discussion paper on this matter has been presented to the Governor's Office.

United



Nations

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