

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, AND SEMINARS

I UNIDO/ESCAP *Ad Hoc* Expert Group Meeting on Policies and Strategies for Small-Scale Industrial Development in the Asia-Pacific Region

The Meeting, which was jointly organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), was held in Seoul, South Korea, from 17 to 20 September 1985. About thirty participants representing institutions in the Asian and Pacific region, as well as representatives from the two United Nations organizations, presented papers on the following topics:

1. The Role of Small-Scale Industries in Industrialization.
2. Programmes, Policies, and Strategies for Small-Scale Industrial Development.
3. Small-Scale Industry Co-operation Programmes:
 - (a) New forms of small-scale industry co-operation
 - (b) Linkages between small- and large-scale industries
 - (c) Promotion of export oriented small-scale industries
 - (d) Financing of small-scale industries
 - (e) Technology in small-scale industries — current trends and future prospects.

4. Development and strengthening of small-scale industries in rural and urban areas.

The final session was devoted to the discussion and adoption of a report put together by the organizers on the basis of papers presented at, and comments arising from, the preceding sessions. For each of the topics mentioned above, the report identified the key issues and presented a summary of conclusions and recommendations.

II Tenth Conference of the Federation of ASEAN Economic Associations (FAEA)

The tenth FAEA conference held from 5 to 7 November 1985 in Singapore was opened by the Singapore Minister of Finance, Dr Richard Hu. Papers were presented on the following topics:

1. Social Security System in Indonesia (Hendra Esmara and Prijono Tjiptoherijanto);
2. Social Security System in Malaysia (Dom Karto);
3. Social Adequacy and Economic Effects of Social Security: The Philippine Case (Mario B. Lamberte);
4. Social Security System in Singapore (K. Kalirajan and Paitoon Wiboonchutikula);
5. Social Insurance for the Thai People (Pawadee Tonguthai);

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6. Social Security — A Practitioner's Point of View (Tan Sri Lee Siow Mong);
 7. Survey of Theoretical issues and Evidence on Social Security (Linda Low and Toh Mun Heng).

In addition, Dr Jesus Estanislao presented his now traditional overview of the ASEAN economies in 1985.

The conference papers are being edited by Amina Tyabji of the Economics Department, National University of Singapore, for publication later in 1986.

III Second Conference of the Research and Information System of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries

Representatives from more than fifty institutions in about forty-five countries attended this conference in New Delhi from 20 to 22 November 1985. The conference, which was organized by the Research and Information System of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (RIS), a research institute based in New Delhi, was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

The two basic objectives of the conference were: (1) to foster an effective system for collaboration in research activities and evolve a well-knit information system for the benefit of developing countries, and (2) to discuss some of the issues of current relevance in the context of North-South and South-South economic relations with the view to evolving suitable policy options.

Issues discussed in relation to the second objective focused on the following areas:

1. Multilateral systems of economic co-operation: critical review and future perspectives
2. Policy framework of Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries (ECDC), and in particular the role of the Generalized System of Trade Preferences (GSTP)

3. Problems of the least developed and lowest income countries, in particular those of the African region.

In keeping with the dual objectives of the conference, the discussions were intended to provide more informed insights into the various issues as well as help identify priorities for co-ordinating research and information efforts among the developing countries.

Among other resolutions, the conference agreed to:

- a. set up a Committee to monitor and co-ordinate activities and act as a catalyst for the promotion of RIS,
- b. form an "Advisory Group of eminent persons" to advise on issues of current and future relevance, and
- c. set up expert groups to examine specific subjects such as the economic situation in Africa, trade in services, and technical co-operation among developing countries.

IV Economic Relations between Scandinavia and ASEAN: Issues on Trade, Investment, Technology Transfer, and Business Culture

This symposium was jointly sponsored by the University of Stockholm and the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore from 21 to 25 October 1985. The following papers were presented in four main sessions of the symposium.

1. ASEAN-Scandinavian Economic Relations: A Tentative Overview (Tan Loong-Hoe)
2. The Organization of ASEAN-Scandinavian Trade: The Case of Singapore (John Wong)
3. Business Cultures and Marketing (Sten Soederman)
4. Swedish Top Managers' Images of Thai Work-Related Cultural Values (Jan Selmer & Marianne Nilson)

5. Mudāraba Banking and Takāful Insurance: The question of 'Islamic Banks', their significance and possible impact (Jan Hjaerpe)
6. ASEAN Primary Commodity Exports to Scandinavia: Preliminary Analysis (Raul Fabella)
7. ASEAN Manufactured Exports to Scandinavia (Ibrahim Hasan)
8. Swedish Participation in the Malaysian National Microelectronics Programme (Harold Lawson)
9. Scandinavian Investments and Technology Transfer in the ASEAN Countries (Mingsarn Kaosa-Ard)
10. Swedish Technology Transfer to ASEAN (Dharma Deo Sharma)

In addition, a panel discussion on the theme "Sweden's Future in ASEAN" as well as a series of summary presentations given by some paper-writers were conducted. Both programmes were open to the public.

V ASEAN Regional Studies Promotion Programme

ASEAN researchers preparing for the March meeting of the ASEAN regional studies promotion programme met from 30 to 31 January 1986 in Singapore to discuss country papers on "industrial restructuring and adjustments for Japan-ASEAN investment and trade expansion". The programme is being organized by the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies on behalf of the ASEAN Secretariat and is sponsored by the Japan Institute of International Affairs.

VI The European Communities and ASEAN

An international conference on the EC and ASEAN is tentatively scheduled to be held in Rome from 11 to 13 December 1986. The conference is being planned by the Istituto di Studi Europei "Alcide de Gasperi" (Rome) and the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. The programme envisages papers on the following topics:

1. The Importance of the EC for Southeast Asia.
2. The Importance of ASEAN for Western Europe.
3. Current Problems and Prospects in Southeast Asia.
4. Current Problems and Prospects in Western Europe.
5. EC-ASEAN Economic Co-operation: Trade and Investment.
6. EC-ASEAN Economic Co-operation: Science and Technology.
7. Economic Issues and Possible Areas of Collaboration and Conflict with Major Partners (USA; Japan; China).
8. Interaction and Collaboration of the EC and ASEAN in International Forums (The UN system and other intergovernmental organizations; non-governmental organizations and international meetings).

(The Editors of the *ASEAN Economic Bulletin* welcome information on past or forthcoming conferences, workshops, or seminars with an ASEAN theme.)