



FORGING A GLOBAL SOUTH

**UNITED NATIONS DAY
FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION**

19 DECEMBER 2004

United Nations Development Programme

A GROWING PRESENCE Developing Countries in the UN

- 1945: (Founding Members) Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela, Yugoslavia
- 1946: Afghanistan, Thailand
- 1947: Pakistan, Yemen
- 1948: Myanmar
- 1950: Indonesia
- 1955: Albania, Cambodia, Jordan, Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nepal, Romania, Sri Lanka
- 1956: Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia
- 1957: Ghana, Malaysia
- 1958: Guinea
- 1960: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Togo
- 1961: Mauritania, Mongolia, Sierra Leone, United Republic of Tanzania
- 1962: Algeria, Burundi, Jamaica, Rwanda, Trinidad & Tobago, Uganda
- 1963: Kenya, Kuwait
- 1964: Malawi, Malta, Zambia
- 1965: Gambia, Maldives, Singapore
- 1966: Barbados, Botswana, Guyana, Lesotho
- 1968: Equatorial Guinea, Mauritius, Swaziland
- 1970: Fiji
- 1971: Bahrain, Bhutan, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Bahamas
- 1974: Bangladesh, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau
- 1975: Cape Verde, Comoros, Mozambique, Papua New Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, Suriname
- 1976: Angola, Samoa, Seychelles
- 1977: Djibouti, Viet Nam
- 1978: Dominica, Solomon Islands
- 1979: Saint Lucia
- 1980: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- 1981: Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Vanuatu
- 1983: Saint Christopher and Nevis
- 1984: Brunei Darussalam
- 1990: Namibia
- 1991: Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands
- 1992: Turkmenistan
- 1993: Eritrea
- 1994: Palau
- 1999: Tonga

THE GLOBAL SOUTH

The use of the term "South" to refer to developing countries collectively has been part of the shorthand of international relations since the 1970s. It rests on the fact that all of the world's industrially developed countries (with the exception of Australia and New Zealand) lie to the north of its developing countries. The term does not imply that all developing countries are similar and can be lumped together in one category. What it does highlight is that although developing countries range across the spectrum in every economic, social and political attribute, they all share a set of vulnerabilities and challenges. The listings below (continued on the inside back cover) show some of the major groupings that constitute the global south.

AFRICA

Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe

North Africa: Algeria, Egypt, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia.

ASIA

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, Viet Nam

Central Asia: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

West Asia: Bahrain, Cyprus, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

Pacific Islands: Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

LATIN AMERICA/CARIBBEAN

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela

Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago

continued on inside back cover



In 2003 the UN General Assembly changed the name of UNDP’s Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC), to reflect a new reality in international affairs. The new name — Special Unit for South-South Cooperation — covers a far broader range of activities the Unit undertakes than was possible when it was created nearly three decades ago to coordinate preparations for the 1978 Conference on TCDC in Buenos Aires.



UNDP

It is fitting that the United Nations acknowledge this change, for it has provided the framework for strategic planning and coordination of South-South cooperation from the very beginning. Countries facing similar challenges of economic and social development have shared experiences and learned from one another in UN forums and through UN sponsored projects and programmes. They have pooled their resources, addressed common weaknesses, and sought to build a better world.

The importance of such cooperation cannot be overemphasized in a period of rapid globalization. The affluence of the North is built on strong and interactive webs of cooperation, and it is imperative that the “global South” follow suit if the gross imbalance between developed and developing countries is to be remedied. The Millennium Development Goals set out by the General Assembly in 2000 will be much easier to attain if South-South cooperation is a fundamental element of governmental policy and practice.

It is heartening to see how much progress has been made since the Buenos Aires Conference; at the same time, it is sobering to see how much more has to be done. This booklet was first issued for the 25th anniversary since the Buenos Aires Plan of Action on TCDC was endorsed by the General Assembly. It is now reissued in updated form for the first observation of the International Day for South-South Cooperation, as not only, a marker of progress but an introduction to the challenges that still face us all.

Yiping Zhou
 Director
 UNDP Special Unit for
 South-South Cooperation

***“We the peoples of the United Nations, Determined
 ...to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,
 ...to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples
 ...do hereby establish an international organization to be known as the United Nations.”***
 — From the Preamble to the United Nations Charter

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COOPERATION TIMELINE



Development cooperation is very new in history. It begins with the United Nations Charter’s promise to use “international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples”

- The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Food and Agriculture Organization are created as part of the United Nations System of Organizations that will grow over the years to have a wide competence in economic and social development. Several agencies that will join the UN System were founded much earlier: International Telecommunications Union (1865), World Meteorological Organization (1873), Universal Postal Union (1874), and International Labour Organization (1919).

UNICEF and UNESCO created.



UN/DPI



We share one planet and a common humanity. If the developing countries live under the yoke of poverty and deprivation, if they are unable to improve their lot by having a fair share in the new world of international trade and investment, the cause of development will suffer. And if development suffers, so will international peace, security and the environment. Many developed countries are very aware of the facts and have accordingly given strong support to South-South cooperation over the years. During the Cold War, peace and security tended to be defined simply in terms of military might or the balance of terror. Today, we know that lasting peace requires a broader vision, encompassing education and literacy, health and nutrition, human rights and fundamental freedoms. We know we cannot be secure amidst starvation. We cannot build peace without alleviating poverty. We cannot build freedom on foundations of injustice. In today's interdependent world, the profit motive and the development motive must go hand in hand. They must be seen as two sides of the same coin. With greater cooperation, I believe our new partnerships among the countries of the South supported by the North can help unlock the economic potential of an underdeveloped world, for the world community as a whole.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan
Interview in *Cooperation South*, 1998



A New Concept

The concept of international cooperation for development is relatively new. It came to life with the United Nations Charter, which promises to "promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom" and to "employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and

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COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

- A group of Latin American countries agrees to cooperate in setting up a satellite communications system.
- A farmer in Asia increases his income from growing rattan to an astronomical \$15,000 per acre per year with help from a network of researchers, inventors, marketing and other experts spread across 50 developing countries.
- Thousands of agricultural experts from Asia work in African countries to help increase food production and improve food security.

These examples of cooperation among developing countries would have seemed unlikely when the United Nations began its first technical assistance programme in 1949, but they are so common now that most of those involved are quite unaware that they are implementing policies recommended by a United Nations Conference. The Conference was on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC), and it was held in Buenos Aires (Argentina) in 1978. This booklet looks at the legacy of that Conference and considers its impact and potential as the world swirls into a period of rapid globalization that holds great promise as well as numerous risks for developing countries.

When the General Assembly (in its resolution 200 of 4 December 1948) called for inter-

1947

International Civil Aviation Organization, General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade created.

1948

World Health Organization created.



MILTON GRANT/JUN



“Building bridges across the South’ was the old motto for South-South cooperation. Today, we need to think more in terms of placing the South on the 21st century’s global super highways.”

— **Mark Malloch Brown, Administrator United Nations Development Programme**

national teams of experts to advise “underdeveloped” countries on remedying their technological “backwardness”, the assumption was that visiting experts from industrially developed countries could transfer the skills necessary for development to countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. After a number of years, when it became evident that progress could not be effectively spread in that manner, developing countries — their numbers in the UN swelling rapidly because of decolonization — pressed for change. They wanted two things. One was to increase the institutional capacity of the UN System to respond to their economic and social needs, which happened relatively quickly (see inside back cover), and the other was to change the international economic system that had been shaped during the colonial period, which proved far more difficult.

The Buenos Aires Conference was convened four years after the UN General Assembly in New York called for a “New International Economic Order” (NIEO). Most of the delegates who participated in it

social advancement of all peoples.” Governments made that unprecedented commitment because they had witnessed during the preceding decades the dire consequences of a lack of international cooperation. It was in this context that international markets collapsed in the Great Depression of the 1930s, which created the social and political conditions for the rise to power of undemocratic regimes and set in motion the train of events that led to the Second World War. International cooperation to advance the interests of all people had come to be seen as being in the highest self-interest of all countries.

The idea received global attention in President Harry Truman’s 1949 inaugural speech and by August of that year, the Economic and Social Council decided to establish the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, the precursor of the UN Development Programme.



Is South-South Cooperation Still Relevant?

When the Buenos Aires Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries was held, most developing countries believed in the efficacy of command economies. How relevant is South-South cooperation in an age dominated by belief in free markets?

The answer is yes. Not only is South-South cooperation still relevant, the market-driven approach to development has made it more important than ever. Without agreements on rules and regulations, standards and quality, without payment arrangements, dispute settlement mechanisms and enforcement machinery, developing countries could not develop strong regional markets. Developing countries must have the capacity to cooperate on the basis of their shared interests and economic and social needs if they are to benefit from global markets based on multiple levels of coordination and cooperation among the major players.

1949

- US President Truman in January inauguration speech proposes technical cooperation programme to help developing countries.
- Economic and Social Council establishes the first UN technical aid programme in August.

1955

Newly independent African and Asian States meet in Bandung, Indonesia and decide to work together at the UN as the Afro-Asian Group.



Basic Concepts

- ▶ **Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC):** Focuses on building technical capacity by way of training, exchanging experts, and sharing experience and knowhow.
- ▶ **Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (ECDC):** Focuses mainly on trade and technology flows among developing countries. It addresses the need to change discriminatory elements of global institutional and regulatory frameworks.
- ▶ **South-South Cooperation:** The phrase gained currency in the context of efforts by developing countries in the 1970s to negotiate agreements that would help close the widening economic gap between them and the developed countries (the North). In 2003, the General Assembly formally opted to use "South-South" instead of "TCDC" in dealing with cooperation among developing countries.
- ▶ **Triangular Cooperation:** The term refers to South-South collaboration supported by partners in the North.



ASEAN: Success Story

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was founded in 1967 by Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. They were joined by Brunei Darussalam in 1984, Viet Nam in 1995, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar in 1997, and Cambodia in 1998.

Founded at a time when the Viet Nam war was seen as a threat to regional stability, ASEAN has achieved the rare triumph of bringing former enemies into a framework of cooperation. Part of a region that is the world's most dynamic in terms of economic growth, ASEAN is set to establish an economic community by 2020. In November 2004, ASEAN and China signed an agreement to begin negotiations on a free trade area.

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had been through several years of inconclusive negotiations on how to bring about a new economic order. They came to the Conference convinced that cooperation among developing countries and their collective self-reliance were essential supplements to their cooperation with developed countries.

UN/DPI



UNDP Administrator Bradford Morse (left) and Ambassador Enrique Jorge of Argentina sign the agreement for Buenos Aires to host the 1978 TCDC Conference.

Buenos Aires Plan of Action

The Plan of Action adopted by the Buenos Aires Conference was put together by an extensive process of expert and political consultations around the world. By the time the Conference met, the detailed findings of the preparatory period had been distilled into a set of broadly indicative recommendations. Though 38 in number and oriented to national, regional and global constituencies, the recommendations can be summed up generically as follows:

- ▶ Developing countries should take stock of their available capabilities, skills and experience and share information about them.
- ▶ They should establish and strengthen the expertise, institutions, arrangements,

COOPERATION TIMELINE

1956

International Finance Corporation created as part of World Bank.

1957

- Sputnik, first artificial satellite, is put into Earth orbit.
- International Atomic Energy Agency created.



information flows, and transport and communications links necessary to pool their resources for the common good.

- They should identify and make effective use of existing opportunities for cooperation, paying special attention to the needs of the least developed, the landlocked and island developing countries.

Focus Areas

Without “implying an indication of priority”, the Conference noted a number of areas in which its recommendations should be implemented. These were: “employment and development of human resources, fisheries, food and agriculture, health, industrialization, information, integration of women in development, monetary and financial cooperation, raw materials, science and technology, technical cooperation and consultancy services, telecommunications, tourism, trade, and transport and communications”. According to the Conference participants, the recommendations “should also facilitate the formulation of programmes of cooperation in other sectors”.

Ongoing Support

While acknowledging that developing countries should be primarily responsible for financing TCDC, the Conference urged broad support from developed countries, asking them to increase development aid “on a predictable, assured and continuous basis”. The “entire United Nations development system must be permeated by the spirit of TCDC, and all its organizations should play a prominent role as promoters and catalysts of

UNDP



Increased use of new and renewable sources of energy is high on the list of priorities for many developing countries. Brazil has led the way in the use of “gasohol” from cane sugar.



A Special Programme on Food Security

The Special Programme for Food Security of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has sent over 2,600 agricultural experts and technicians from 20 advanced developing countries to work directly with farmers in rural communities in other developing countries. They work on all aspects of food security, including irrigation, plant nutrition and soil fertility, marketing, cooperatives, rural credit and finance, seed production, agricultural engineering, and animal and crop production. The countries sending the experts meet their salary and other home-based entitlements; the host government meets local costs, including travel, accommodation and medical insurance; and FAO provides for international travel and a small subsistence allowance. (http://www.fao.org/spfs/southsouth_en.stm)



Disease Surveillance Networks

South-South cooperation is a key element of the ground-breaking work that the World Health Organization does in collecting and analysing information and in its campaigns directed against specific diseases. The global disease surveillance network that WHO maintains pools the resources and capacities

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1958

International Maritime Organization created.

1960

- Digital Equipment introduces the first minicomputer, the PDP-1, for \$120,000. It is the first commercial computer equipped with a keyboard and monitor.
- Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) created.
- International Development Association created at World Bank.



of laboratories, vital registration systems, service systems and sentinel sites. Its regional offices support a range of networks that both generate and use information. These regional networks have also helped to spread the influence of the agency's normative work, supporting 70 countries in creating full national health accounts.



Broad Partnership Fights AIDS

The International Partnership against AIDS in Africa is the world's largest example of intensified South-South cooperation focused on a single urgent issue.

It is a coalition under the leadership of African governments that brings together donors, community activists, businesses and the UN System. UNAIDS sees this South-South coalition as exemplifying "preeminently a 21st century strategy" because it reflects the empowering reality of shared knowledge: "Nowhere is this demonstrated more clearly than the emerging influence of South to South contact as a strategy to drive down the price of AIDS drugs."



SHAMSUZ ZAMAN/UNDP



Fighting Aids: (l to r): Catherine Phiri of Uganda, Father Arkadiusz of Poland, Marie Bopp Dupont of Fiji and Rita Arauz Molina of Nicaragua at an awards ceremony in 2000 recognizing their contributions to the international campaign against HIV-AIDS.

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TCDC", the Conference recommended. (In 1992, the UN Economic and Social Council strengthened that considerably by calling for "first consideration" to TCDC by all parts of the UN System as well as "all partners in the development effort".) Particular responsibility for ongoing support of TCDC was given to the UN Development Programme, which had established a Special Unit to deal with the matter in 1974 and which played a leading role in preparing for the Conference.

Monitoring Progress

To monitor implementation of the Plan of Action, the UN General Assembly created a High Level Committee (HLC) of all States participating in the UN Development Programme. After its first two meetings in 1980 and 1981, the HLC has convened every two years to consider reports submitted by the UNDP Special Unit for TCDC. The reports reflect input from TCDC focal points at the national level and in all agencies of the UN development system. Although the reporting by focal points is far from comprehensive, the information collected over the years points to the following conclusions:

1. South-South cooperation has become a mainstream modality in all regions and most sectors. Attitudinal problems left over from the colonial period, which had been seen as an obstacle to TCDC at the Buenos Aires Conference, have largely disappeared. Every UN agency uses experts and institutions from developing countries to work on projects in other developing countries. In many cases, such use is preferred, not for reasons of policy

COOPERATION TIMELINE

1961

- Non-Aligned Movement initiated.
- Gulf Cooperation Council formed.

1963

- Organization of African Unity created.
- World Food Programme created.



UNDP/CUBA

Over the last 25 years, developing countries have acquired competence in many technologically advanced areas: Cuban factory produces solar energy panels.

but because of cost-effectiveness. The rapid economic growth of a number of developing countries and increased technical ability in many more have contributed to this success. In this sense, the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) is on the right track.

2. Developed countries have provided substantial and increasing support for South-South cooperation, but there is a wide perception among developing countries that more needs to be done. Japan appears to have given high priority to TCDC in terms of policy and project activity.

3. Lack of resources and information about developing countries is widely perceived to be an obstacle to South-South cooperation. Effective mechanisms and institutions to coordinate and manage South-South cooperation have not been sufficiently developed. More Governments need to create national databases of experts and capabilities in the South.

4. Much has changed in the 25 years since the Buenos Aires Conference, and so have the policies governing TCDC activities.



LatinPharma Aims at Strategic Change

Latin American countries import many pharmaceuticals from foreign transnationals that not only could be but are being produced within the region by small and medium sized companies. A 2001 study found that Central American countries were importing 76 per cent of their essential drugs while 200 or so local companies capable of producing them were working at between 10 and 50 per cent of capacity. Under the strong South-South programme of the Geneva-based International Trade Centre (ITC), Latin American governments, corporations, academics and scientists are engaged in an ongoing effort to change such situations. By bringing buyers and sellers together, by addressing the factors that prevent use of local potential, ITC's "LatinPharma" project is seeking to bring about strategic change in the region's pharmaceutical market.



Organic Agriculture

AGRECOL, an NGO with a membership of farmers and their representatives from over 20 countries, has led the way in popularizing organic farming. It has mobilized organic farmers in developing countries to press for national and regional organic standards and the restructuring of the International Basic Standards and Codex Alimentarius for organically produced food. The Codex Alimentarius was established by FAO and WHO in 1962 to set safety standards in the food trade. Many developing countries have not fully participated in overseeing and implementing it because of the costs involved. Their participation is essential in a period when the food trade crosses all borders.



Regional Links Boom in Asia

Trade between India and China has grown rapidly in the last decade, from \$264.8 million in 1991 to \$10

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1964

- At the first UN Conference on Trade and Development in Geneva, Latin American countries join with African and Asian countries to create the Group of 77.
- GATT establishes International Trade Centre to extend technical assistance.

1965

UN Development Programme created.



billion in 2004. Links between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and India have also grown rapidly: trade in 2002 was about US\$ 12.11 billion, over four times the 1993–1994 level. Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand have also become major sources of foreign investment in India. Broad-based programmes of cooperation have developed between ASEAN members and India in a number of high-technology areas, including biotechnology, advanced materials, and space applications.



Visionary View of Africa's Future

The African Union, which replaced the Organization of African Unity in 2002, incorporates in its Constitutive Act a visionary view of South-South cooperation that includes the creation of a continental economic and monetary union. At present some 14 sub-regional efforts at cooperation are laying the foundations of the African Economic Community (see back cover). In a July 2004 report that contained the first comprehensive assessment of these efforts, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), urged a number of specific steps to carry forward efforts at cooperation that it said had lagged in recent years. To remedy that situation the report urged a number of concrete steps, including standardized documentation requirements by the end of 2004 for people, vehicles and goods crossing national borders within each community, and across Africa by the end of 2007. The report also called for full participation of the private sector in regional cooperation.



GCC: Pan-Arabism in Practice

In West Asia, pan-Arab ideas with a long history have been put into effective practice by the sub-regional Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which aims for the full economic unity of its six members (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi

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THE EVOLUTION OF POLICY

In looking at the evolution of South-South policy, we need to consider three dimensions: what actually happened in the decades after the Buenos Aires Conference; the response of the developing countries; and the framework of UN development policy.

The History

The two decades that followed the Buenos Aires Conference were very difficult for most developing countries. Rampant inflation combined with a major recession in the biggest developed countries closed off expectations that the 1970s boom in energy prices could be spread to other commodity exports of developing countries. On the contrary, the prices of commodities on which Southern countries were heavily dependent for export income went into a steep decline. Caught in a squeeze between the crashing prices of their exports and high inflation in the prices of their imports, many developing countries found it impossible to repay the substantial debts they had assumed.

The 1990s brought little relief. Although the Cold War ended, the expected “peace dividend” did not materialize. Instead, development assistance went into a steep, decade-long decline. By 2000, the debt service payments of developing countries accounted for 6.3 per cent of their GDP. Net foreign direct investment then was 2.5 per cent and aid amounted to 0.5 per cent (Source: HDR 2002). Developing countries as a group had

1967
Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) founded.

1968
International Trade Centre comes under joint UNCTAD-GATT sponsorship.



become net exporters of capital. Many African countries during this period were additionally plagued by the AIDS pandemic and by a proliferation of armed conflicts. Instead of focusing entirely on development, technical cooperation and financial aid were diverted to humanitarian relief and post-conflict recovery.



JACQUELINE MIA FOSTER/UNDP

Armed conflict has devastated hopes of development in a number of countries. Afghanistan (Kabul street is shown above) has been one of the worst affected.

The only region where developing countries bucked this overall trend was in East Asia. The Republic of Korea, Taiwan province of China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), emerged during the 1980s as success stories. The common factors in their success were political as well as economic.

Developing-country Perspective

The agenda for cooperation among developing countries is rooted in their demands for political, economic and social equity and progress after the Second World War. Giving voice to that agenda ever since its creation in 1964 has been the Group of 77, which includes all developing countries in the United Nations. G-77 ministerial meetings have initiated changes to the South-South agenda over the last 25 years. Even though many of its bold recommendations have not been meaningfully

Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates). In 1983, GCC members abolished all customs duties on trade in agricultural, animal, industrial and natural resources of indigenous origin. In 1988, they decided to aim for a common band of tariffs for imports from nonmember countries, and in 2001, a unified customs tariff was agreed upon (for implementation in 2003). A common patent office has been established, there is free movement of professionals among GCC countries, and professional qualifications in one member State are accepted in all others. Plans call for the adoption of a common currency in 2010.



MERCOSUR: Success and Challenges

The progress of MERCOSUR, the five-member Common Market of the South (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and, since July 2004, Venezuela) exemplifies the rocky road of South-South cooperation. By the end of 1994, MERCOSUR member States, with a population base of over 200 million and combined GDP of over a trillion dollars, had eliminated tariffs on 90 per cent of regional trade. In 1995, they agreed on a common tariff structure covering some 85 per cent of imports from outside the region, and the following year, established a secretariat in Montevideo and a development bank to finance regional projects. The same year, MERCOSUR signed free trade agreements with its two associate members, Bolivia and Chile. At the end of the 1990s, however, a number of severe problems developed because of economic crises in Argentina and Brazil. According to the Inter-American Development Bank, intra-MERCOSUR trade, which had grown at an average of 16 per cent for a decade, fell by 46 per cent in 2001 and a further 37 per cent in 2002. As a percentage of its total trade, intra-MERCOSUR exchanges fell from 20 per cent in 2000 to 11 per cent in 2002. Despite these setbacks, MERCOSUR and the Andean Community (see page 10) have vigorously pursued a joint free trade area. An agreement on that was signed on April 5 and formally adopted at a July 1 a MERCOSUR-CAN summit in Quito.

1969

Andean Community created.

1972

- General Assembly creates a Working Group on technical cooperation among developing countries.
- Environment Conference meets in Stockholm.



Andean Community

The Andean Community, created under the 1969 Cartagena Agreement, has carried the process of regional integration further than any other group of developing countries. It has had a Parliament, a Council of Ministers and a Court of Justice since 1979. (The treaty creating the Court entered into force in 1983.) In 1990, the Andean Presidential Council was created, and the next year it decided to move towards a four-level common external tariff. In 1993, the Andean Free Trade Zone entered into force for Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela, and the next year a Common External Tariff was approved. In 1995, Common Foreign Policy Guidelines were set, and the same year, the Presidents of Andean member States approved a "New Strategic Design". In 1996, the framework for the creation and use of the Simón Bolívar Andean Satellite System was agreed. In 1997, a secretariat was established, and agreement was reached on the gradual incorporation of Peru into the Free Trade Zone. In 1998, the Andean Community Advisory Council of Treasury and Finance Ministers, Central Banks and Economic Planning Authorities met for the first time.

UN/DPI



Among the major constraints to South-South Cooperation is inadequate transportation links. Only a few international highways and ageing railways link developing countries.

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implemented, the history of G-77 recommendations is worth noting:

Caracas (1981): A High-level Conference on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries urged negotiations on a Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) among developing countries, joint initiatives in marketing and technology transfers, an expert study of the proposal for a "solidarity fund" and a bank for developing countries.

Cairo (1986): The Ministerial meeting of the G-77 introduced three new elements to the agenda of the South. It called for a "sector by sector scale of priorities"; encouraged the "participation of non-government entities" in South-South cooperation; and "underlined the interrelationship between peace, security, development and economic cooperation among developing countries". It "stressed the importance of settling all disputes among developing countries by peaceful means".

San Jose (1997): Meeting 17 years after the adoption of the Caracas Programme of Action, G-77 ministers took stock of a world that had been transformed by the end of the Cold War, the swift onset of the digital age, and the rapidly accelerating processes of globalization. The meeting said it "would be desirable to develop and strengthen a partnership" among the public and private sectors, entrepreneurs, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and civil society.

To help the landlocked and small island developing countries, the meeting called for bilateral and regional agreements on transport operations, joint ventures on transit transport, and the strengthening of institutions and

COOPERATION TIMELINE

- International monetary system based on fixed currency exchange rates breaks down.
- OPEC raises price of oil, setting off global inflation.
- Caribbean Community founded.

- General Assembly calls for a New International Economic Order.
- UNDP creates "Special Unit" to service General Assembly Working Group on TCDC.
- International Fund for Agricultural Development created.
- UN convenes first Population Conference (Bucharest) and World Food Conference (Rome).



SIMON MATHERULA, ST. SUNDAY TIMES



Voting in free and fair elections is critically important, but it is only the first step in determining good governance — a strong new focus of South-South cooperation.

human resources relating to transport. The San Jose meeting urged the creation of institutional mechanisms to provide financing, market information, technology, education and training to enable women workers, producers and their micro-enterprises to benefit from networking and adjust to the processes of globalization.

Bali (1999): G-77 ministers issued a Declaration and Plan of Action on “Regional and Subregional Economic Cooperation of the Developing Countries”. They urged the publication of an annual statistical yearbook on the developing-country groupings and the creation of consultative mechanisms to promote the timely study of the impact of economic “mega blocs” and economic crises on those groupings. Other recommendations were: workshops for Government officials on multilateral negotiating skills; greater regional interaction by businessmen and women; and the creation of inter-regional networks of chambers of commerce and industry, trade and professional associations, parliamentarians, scientists, academics, young entrepreneurs and scholars.

South Summit (2000): The first Summit meeting of the G-77 noted that the progress of



Decentralized Cooperation

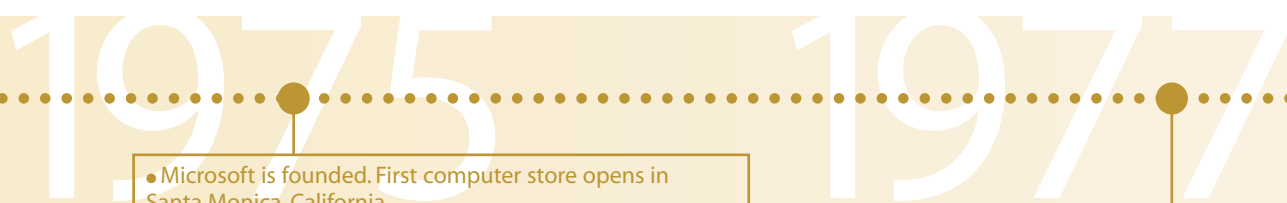
Every developing country is part of a regional cooperation or integration effort; most are members of several such groupings. Because of a number of constraints, few efforts at regional cooperation have succeeded. In recent years, different formulae to sidestep many of those problems have emerged, including special economic zones that span borders and joint management of common resources. The most prominent example of micro-regionalism is the UNDP-supported Tumen River Area Development Project, which covers an economically depressed area lying along the natural border of China, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation. With Mongolia and the Republic of Korea also participating, the project has the potential not only for economic growth but also for political confidence-building. Other examples of decentralized cooperation involve the development of the Mekong delta and protection of the Caspian and Black Sea environments.



South Asia

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) was established in 1985 with a narrow technical focus, but it has extended its reach into the environmental, social and security areas. Its 11 technical committees exchange information, formulate programmes and prepare projects on: agriculture, communications, education, culture and sports, environment and meteorology, health and population activities, prevention of drug trafficking and abuse, rural development, science and technology, tourism, transport and women’s development. One of the results of cooperation is a SAARC Food Security Reserve, maintained at a minimum level of 200,000 metric tons of food grains. Five SAARC Regional Centres focus on agricultural information (Bangladesh), tuberculosis prevention (Nepal), meteorological research

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- Microsoft is founded. First computer store opens in Santa Monica, California
- International Women’s Year Conference meets in Mexico.
- World population passes 4 billion.
- Latin American Economic System founded.
- Economic Community of West African States founded .

UNDP Special Unit for TCDC launches Information Referral Service (INRES).



(Bangladesh), documentation (India) and human resource development (Pakistan). There are apex bodies in accounting, law, and commerce and industry. The Regional Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution was signed at the 11th SAARC Summit in 2002.

The South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) became operational in December 1995, and it led in January 2004 to agreement on the creation of a South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA). All members have taken steps to liberalize trade; in 1998, India unilaterally lifted all quantitative restrictions on imports from SAARC countries. A high-level group has also recommended that SAFTA move to a South Asian Customs Union by 2015 and eventually to a South Asian Economic Union in 2020.



UNDP: Leader in TCDC

When the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was created in 1965 by combining earlier UN programmes, it oversaw the deployment of experts and funds to a multiplicity of projects in developing countries. As each government receiving technical assistance could undertake whichever project it wanted, there was little coherence in UNDP activities. Today the situation is far different. UNDP has focused its activities on a number of practice areas within a global cooperation framework (GCF) that reflects the overarching policy objectives of reducing poverty and social iniquity and promoting human development. The GCF strengthens the capacity of developing countries to learn from and use the accumulated store of experience and knowledge on four critical dimensions of development: globalization, participation, growth and crises.

The GCF allows UNDP global programmes and policy support to be integrated in three key ways that promote South-South cooperation:

- closer vertical integration, linking country, regional and global programmes to reinforce major policy shifts;

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developing countries over the years had not been “commensurate with the comprehensive nature” of the commitments they had made. To overcome “whatever factors have limited this cooperation”, it proposed a set of institutional measures unprecedented in specificity and scope. The Summit recommended that the G-77 Chairman’s office in New York be upgraded to a “compact executive secretariat” and that all G-77 members contribute \$5,000 (or more) annually to support it. An additional \$10-million fund was proposed to help implement the other decisions of the Summit, which included a review of all existing South-South cooperation programmes with a view to identifying complementarities; coordination of the networking of research institutions in the South to improve the analytical ability available to the Group; and the publication of an annual report on South-South cooperation in collaboration with the UNDP Special Unit for TCDC.

Other recommendations were to convene groups of experts (acting in their individual capacities) to review the agendas of major multilateral conferences and guide developing countries regarding their desirable outcome; to develop a “vulnerability index” focusing attention on the risks of globalization for mainly agrarian developing countries; and to create a mechanism for “monitoring, analysis, identification, management and follow-up” to ensure the effectiveness of South-South cooperation. Finally, the Summit recommended that G-77 Heads of State and Government meet again in 2005.

Tehran (2001): The tenth session of the Intergovernmental Follow-Up and Coordina-

1978

- Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries meets in Buenos Aires.
- UN General Assembly meets in Special Session on Disarmament.

1979

General Assembly adopts Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women.



tion Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries called for a consolidation of the “South Platform” to bridge the gap between agreed aims and performance. It urged that the G-77 Secretariat in New York be strengthened and that a “South Report” be launched on cooperation among developing countries.

Dubai (2002): A Conference on Science and Technology (attended by some 150 scientists as well as officials from over 70 countries) reaffirmed the need to establish a network of research institutions of the South and called for a study of the funding and institutional support that would be necessary. The scientists called on G-77 governments to increase funding for science and technology by 2.5% of the gross national product (GNP) by the year 2010.

UN Framework

In the last 25 years, the conceptualization of development at the United Nations has changed dramatically. Where once it was seen as a simple process of training people in science and technology and building the industrial productive capacity necessary to raise the GNP, it is now envisaged as an enriching economic and social transformation centred on human well-being. The unsustainable use of the natural environment has been replaced by a core concern for the environmental sustainability of human activity. Questions of social equity, gender discrimination and quality of governance that were never thought relevant are now issues inseparable from development. In addition to philosophical change, there have been the political trans-

- closer geographic integration by promoting greater South-South exchange and cooperation across regions;
- closer thematic integration by linking relevant themes and sectors in a more synergistic manner.

The UNDP practice areas are:

- Democratic Governance;
- Poverty Reduction;
- Crisis Prevention and Recovery;
- Energy and Environment;
- Information and Communications Technology;
- HIV/AIDS.

The services UNDP provides in these areas are:

- global advocacy and policy analysis;
- policy advice and support;
- knowledge-networking and sharing of best practices.

RUTH MASSEY/UNDP



The education of girls is one of the surest paths to accelerated development, and it has become a particular focus of attention in developing countries with good governance.



Special Unit for South-South Cooperation

In 1972, the General Assembly created a Working Group on TCDC, and, to service it, a Special Unit was established in UNDP in the Office of the Administrator. When the General Assembly in 1976 called for the Buenos Aires Conference, the Special Unit was the focal point of the preparatory process, and it was strengthened later to deal with follow-up actions.

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1980

- WHO-led campaign eradicates smallpox.
- Second UN Conference on Women (Copenhagen).
- First meeting of General Assembly’s High-level Committee on TCDC, to review progress following the 1978 Buenos Aires Conference.

1981

- First reported case of AIDS (in the United States).
- G-77 convenes High-level Conference on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries in Caracas (Venezuela).



Since 1997, the work of the Special Unit has been programmed within a cooperation framework that takes into account prevailing trends relevant to TCDC. The second cooperation framework (2001-2003) was formulated at a time of accelerating integration of the global economy and is focused on activities that will support developing countries in dealing with related problems and opportunities. The focus of current activities is on regional and interregional initiatives aimed at engaging a large number of countries to work together to formulate policies, share information, agree on priorities and translate ideas into programmes. The strategic aim is to make developing countries effective partners in action to achieve such key Millennium Development Goals as halving the incidence of extreme poverty by 2015, set by the General Assembly at the initiative of the Havana Summit of the Group of 77.

Key Support Role

The Unit is the secretariat of the General Assembly's High Level Committee on South-South Cooperation and prepares all substantive reports submitted to intergovernmental bodies for consideration by delegates. It coordinates the promotion of South-South cooperation within the UN System, and is the contact point of UNDP with the Group of 77. In that capacity it works with other UNDP bureaus to provide substantive support for G-77 delegations when requested.

Significant Programmes

The Unit supports activities in key strategic areas including health (promotion of traditional knowledge), private sector development, the

environment and information and communication technology. One of the latest achievements resulting from the Unit's activities is the development by an international research network supported by Japan, of a new variety of rice, called New

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Satellite antenna in a town in Somalia points to the profoundly increased connectivity of developing countries because of new communications technology.



SONYA LAURENCE GREEN/UNDP

formations brought on by the end of the Cold War and the reconfiguration of space and time by new information and communications technologies. The impact of all this on South-South cooperation has been framed by the imperative process of rapid globalization.

Taking stock of the changes described above, the General Assembly in 1995 adopted a resolution calling for "new directions" in TCDC. It urged "a more strategic orientation" for TCDC focused "on priority issues...which are likely to have a major development impact on a large number of developing countries". The priorities noted were trade and investment, debt, the environment, poverty alleviation, production and employment, macroeconomic policy coordination, education, health, the transfer of technology and rural development.

To increase resources for TCDC, the General Assembly endorsed "triangular cooperation" (finance from developed countries supportive of TCDC) and private-sector funding. All specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the UN System were asked to provide analytical and empirical material to the Special Unit for the preparation of biennial progress reports to the HLC on South-South cooperation.

Pivotal Countries

In November 1997, the UNDP Special Unit for TCDC convened a meeting of 23 countries that had become hubs of South-South cooperation. They were: in Africa, Ghana, Mauritius, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa; in Asia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Singapore and Thailand; in the Middle East, Egypt and Tunisia; in

1982

Convention on the Law of the Sea is adopted after 9 years of talks.

1985

- Mikhail Gorbachev becomes Soviet leader, begins liberalization.
- South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) founded.
- Third UN Conference on Women (Nairobi).



Central and Eastern Europe, Malta and Turkey; in Latin America and the Caribbean, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago. These “pivotal countries” account for the bulk of the world’s population, include its fastest-growing economies, and have huge potential for trade and other forms of interaction among themselves.

Since the adoption of the “new directions” resolution, there has been energized cooperation among the pivotal countries in every region, and major world conferences have noted the importance of South-South cooperation. The 2001 Brussels Conference on Least Developed Countries said that South-South cooperation had an important role in LDC development and set out priority areas. The 2002 Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development emphasized South-South and triangular-cooperation approaches to capacity-building in developing countries. It called for enhanced South-South cooperation in building financial infrastructure and improving human resources as well as financial regulation and supervision, public administration, formulation of gender-sensitive budget policies attuned to social needs, debt management, early warning and crisis prevention.

A quarter century after the Buenos Aires Conference, cooperation among developing countries has a proven track record and acknowledged value. But the Plan of Action has not been fully implemented, and collective self-reliance and increased capacity to integrate into the world economy remain distant goals for most developing countries.

Rice for Africa (NERICA), which is suited to African growing conditions. The Special Unit supported the creation of the NERICA Consortium for Food Security in sub-Saharan Africa to implement the African Rice Initiative (ARI), which aims to increase the dissemination of NERICA varieties in Africa. ARI has been recognized by the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) as one of the most promising initiatives for the improvement of food security in Africa. The dissemination of additional NERICA varieties, including rain-fed lowland types, has the potential to increase African rice production to over 744 000 tons, which would replace imports costing some \$88 million yearly by 2006.

Other initiatives have promoted policy dialogue among developing countries on such critical development issues as urban environmental management to build an eco-society, and management of water demand. An initiative for policy dialogue to develop institutional capacities for management of water demand in the Middle East and North Africa region covers wastewater reuse, water valuation, privatization and decentralization. A series of forums since 2002 has brought together experts and practitioners, resulting in a network that supports the implementation of best practices in the management of water demand in participating countries. Canada’s International Development Research Centre and the Canadian International Development Agency have played a key role in this project.



The Sharing of Information

Knowledge-sharing is an essential component of cooperation for development, so promoting it is at the heart of the work of the Special Unit. A large share of this work includes the documentation of development practices and the creation of a platform for the dissemination of information on expertise in developing countries.

The publication of the series *Sharing Innovative Experiences* facilitates the identification and documentation of successful development

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1986

G-77 Ministers, meeting in Cairo, encourage non-governmental entities to participate in South-South cooperation and underscore the interrelationship of peace, security, development and economic cooperation among developing countries.

1988

First conference of New and Restored Democracies (Manila) is attended by 13 States.



experiences and lessons learned on a wide range of socio-economic issues. The nine volumes published up to now have created considerable interest among development practitioners, scholars and government officials. Each volume of the series is published in collaboration with an institutional partner. The Third World Network of Scientific Organizations and the Third World Academy of Sciences were the partners in the preparation of three volumes, including volume 8 issued in 2002. Other partners include the Third World Network, FAO and CARICAD — the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration.

The Web of Information for Development, WIDE, is an Internet-enabled platform for the dissemination and sharing of information on innovative development practices, experts and institutions of the South. WIDE also enables institutions in the South to build their own rosters of experts and to promote their visibility worldwide.

With support from UNDP's Bureau for Development Policy, WIDE will seek to become a communications platform for partners in the development community. The expectation is that it can develop into a major channel for accessing information on expertise in developing countries. This will be a significant step towards mainstreaming South-South cooperation in the activities of UNDP and the United Nations System.



Expanding Inter-regional Links

Several initiatives of the Special Unit involve strengthening capacity in African countries with help from partners in other regions. The aim is to build local-level institutions for poverty alleviation. With support from Japan, the Special Unit began preparatory work in November 2002 on a programme for African capacity development in local governance and economic development. The aim is to facilitate the growth of two local governance networks in Africa and Asia that will help the Member countries to collaborate and draw on one another's experience for country-level

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CHALLENGES OF GLOBALIZATION

The various transformations of the world in the last few decades have not changed the basic concerns of developing countries. Equitable participation in the world economy and building greater capacity to deal effectively with a range of severe internal problems remain their twin objectives. The lack of evolution in the basic positions of developing countries reflects the fact that the nature of the problems they face — rooted in the gross inequalities between the world's rich and poor — has not changed. The richest five per cent of the world's people have 114 times the income of the poorest five per cent. The richest one per cent has as much income as the poorest 57 per cent. While per capita income in most of the world has increased steadily over the last four decades, in Africa it has declined.

The dynamics of cooperation among developing countries have, however, been profoundly affected by the dramatic changes in the world's ideological and technological map. The end of the Cold War made globalization politically feasible and added urgent new imperatives to South-South cooperation. The new information and communications technologies have opened up opportunities for such cooperation that are unprecedented in scope and potential. The induction of business, civil society and non-governmental organizations into the South-South process has energized it and broadened the predominantly economic and

1989

- Cold War ends.
- Arab Maghreb Union founded.

1990

- UNDP publishes first Human Development Report.
- Fourth UN Conference on Women (Beijing).
- Tech Museum opens in Silicone Valley, gives annual awards for innovative use of technology.



SONYA LAURENCE GREEN/UNDP SOMALIA

Globalization has made international trade in food commonplace and emphasized the need to give full access to international markets for developing country agricultural products.

technological focus of TCDC to include issues of governance, corporate responsibility and human rights.

The following paragraphs highlight some of the multiple challenges facing developing countries. In every case, remedies to existing problems would be facilitated by technical and economic cooperation among countries of the South.

Trade

International trade has entered a new era in which the traditional capacity of governments to set rules and regulations at every national border is being replaced by a rule-based regime under the auspices of by the World Trade Organization in Geneva. However, most developing countries need to enhance their capacity to participate effectively in the WTO rule-making process and to promote their interests better within the existing regulatory framework. South-South cooperation would go a long way to remedy the existing deficits in their capacity to negotiate.

initiatives. This initiative, which is carried out in partnership with the Bureau for Development Policy, is an example of the efforts of the Special Unit to integrate South-South cooperation into UNDP practices, with the specific aim of building governance environments conducive to socio-economic development.

Also with support from Japan, the Special Unit has organized forums for African and Asian businesses to catalyse investment and technology transfer at the enterprise level. Existing arrangements to establish business linkages between African and Asian entrepreneurs are being transformed by the Special Unit, which is working to create an electronic platform that empowers companies participating in the Africa-Asia Business Forum to identify partners in either region over the Internet.

Recognizing the role of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in economic development in Africa, a programme was initiated in 2001 to establish a Technonet Africa to replicate Technonet Asia, which has over 30 years of experience in the promotion of Asian SMEs.

Another initiative is designed to develop the capacity of African bankers in development financing, with technical assistance from Asian financial institutions. The programme has taken African bank executives and trainers to Asian financial institutions. Institutions in Malaysia and the Philippines have played a pioneering role in making this possible.

An environmental management initiative of the Special Unit brings together three Asian countries (Bangladesh, Malaysia and Thailand) and 10 African countries (Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo) in efforts to protect endangered coastal and marine resources in the Gulf of Guinea. Cameroon has asked for the expansion of the programme as a confidence-building measure among Cameroonian and Nigerian fishermen living in the previously contested Bakasi area.

Under the Africa-Asia Eco-partnership Programme, the Special Unit has undertaken initiatives in solid waste management, air pollution control and wastewater management in five African cities (Accra, Addis Ababa, Dar es Salaam, Lagos and Nairobi) and six Asian

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1991

- First web pages on the Internet put up by physicists seeking to meet the need to facilitate the sharing of documents among scientists.
- Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) founded.
- OECD Development Assistance Committee publishes "Principles for New Orientation in Technical Cooperation."

1992

Southern African Development Community (SADC) founded.



cities (Bangkok, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Marikina, Phnom Penh and Tokyo). The programme builds public-private partnerships and community participation.

An initiative by the Special Unit to train trainers in science and technology education through an electronic platform has attracted a number of partners from developing countries, including Angola, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gambia, India, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mozambique, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.



Pivotal Countries

The countries that have been formally recognized as 'pivotal' to South-South cooperation have committed substantial resources and have multifaceted programmes. China has a diverse portfolio of cooperation projects with other developing countries and decided in 2000 that it would reduce or cancel some \$1.2 billion in debt owed mostly by African Least Developed Countries. India's bilateral programme of cooperation with other developing countries has committed some \$2 billion since it was established in 1964, and nationals of 154 countries have participated in its variety of scholarship and training programs. Brazil consults annually with Latin American and Caribbean countries before drawing up its cooperation programmes that are funded from national and multilateral sources. Three of the pivotal countries — India, Brazil and South Africa — initiated in 2003 a joint program on poverty alleviation that is to be operated with their funding through UNDP.

It is not just large developing countries that have made significant contributions. Singapore spends millions on its portfolio of South-South projects, much of it dedicated to training programmes that have included over 7,000 nationals from 133 countries. Sri Lanka has trained personnel from its region in areas of indigenous expertise,

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Technology

In the early years of development cooperation, it was assumed that technology transfer involved mainly training people and setting up institutions. Experience has underlined the need to deal with more complex linkages. Development — and retention — of human resources must now cover also such issues as health, morbidity, social security, human rights, gender, generational equity, and at the high end, even the intellectual atmosphere of a society (which is relevant in attempts to stop the "brain drain" from developing countries).

The need to stop the brain drain and develop the capacity to innovate technologies in developing countries to deal with local problems is urgent. The current globally skewed distribution of capacity for research and development (R&D), has meant that communicable diseases afflicting millions of poor people are being virtually ignored. Only five to ten per cent of health R&D goes to diseases that occur entirely or mostly in develop-

R.HABR/MOE/UNDP



The first step to TCDC is for each country to take stock of its own resources. Lebanon found its forests had a rare abundance of biodiversity.

COOPERATION TIMELINE

1994

- World Wide Web has 10,000 servers and 10 million users, with traffick equivalent to transmitting the complete works of Shakespeare every second.
- Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa founded.

1995

- International World-Wide Web Consortium founded.
- World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen).
- General Assembly adopts TCDC "New Directions" resolution.



ing countries. Only one per cent of new products between 1975 and 1997 were developed specifically for tropical diseases.

Investments

Several developing countries have been receiving substantial investment inflows over the past decade, but most developing countries are starved of capital. Year after year, the lions share of world investments has gone to just five developing countries; the top ten receive over 80 per cent. The reason for such concentration is that investment decisions are made by transnational corporations, and they are largely guided not by concern for the economic and social development of countries but by the profit motive. In a bid to attract foreign investment, many developing countries have been changing their laws and regulations, removing restrictions and providing incentives. According to UNCTAD (World Investment Report 2002) developing countries made 208 changes in their laws relating to FDI in 2001 (the highest since it began reporting the statistic in 1991); 93 per cent were aimed at creating a more favourable investment climate. Unless developing countries cooperate in this process of liberalization they could set off a self-defeating “race to the bottom” in terms of social and environmental impact.

New Information Technologies

The use of new information and communications technologies holds the promise of accelerated development, allowing developing countries to leapfrog over problems that in the past would have been prohibitively expensive

including the extraction and use of banana fibre, wind power and crab breeding. Countries have often cooperated on an interregional basis. Cuba has provided medical experts and health-care systems to many countries outside the Latin America and Caribbean region. In Africa, Benin, Seychelles and Uganda have worked through joint commissions with other developing countries to identify TCDC priorities. India has run programmes on farming and entrepreneurship development in Burkina Faso, Namibia and Senegal.

South-South Cooperation has spread to non-traditional areas: in designing its ombudsman system, Peru drew on Guatemala’s experience with its Peace Commission (which helped to bring its long-standing civil war to an end) and on South Africa’s use of a post-apartheid “Truth Commission”. As part of its active S-S programme, Venezuela in recent years has funded capacity-building activities in a number of developing countries. Some TCDC projects are tailored to very specific needs: Malaysia developed a training programme just for diplomats and public servants in Myanmar.

In facing new challenges, developing countries have pooled resources and forged new partnerships among themselves and with non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations. Indonesia has hosted a series of interregional brainstorming sessions on issues relevant to globalization. Working with the South Centre and the Third World Network, governments have articulated joint positions on trade and investment policies and prepared the South agenda for global negotiations. A project funded by the Organization of American States and led by Peru to study the impact of El Niño has involved the cooperation of Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Panama.



Triangular Cooperation

Developed countries have provided vital support for South-South cooperation, particularly in the area of human resource development, research and institutional capacity-building. Aid is being increasingly targeted at groups of countries or

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- World Trade Organization replaces GATT.
- First Africa-Asia Business Forum.
- UNESCO organizes World Conference on Science (Budapest).

- Number of unique web pages on the Internet passes one billion mark.
- General Assembly Millennium Summit.
- First “South Summit” convened by G-77 (Havana).
- General Assembly convenes Special Session on Women.
- Fourth Conference of new and restored democracies draws 80 States (Cotonou).



institutions that address overarching thematic issues. The European Union, for instance, has supported programmes engaging large numbers of countries to expand trade, protect the environment and develop human resources in Africa. The Netherlands has co-financed sectoral programmes in 22 developing countries through multi-donor basket funds, providing support for the use of Southern technical resources for any element of the programme.

In general, donor countries have preferred to facilitate South-South cooperation by supporting centres of excellence and knowledge networks. Sweden is financing three such networks in Asia (on renewable energy technologies, energy research, and environment and climate) and two in Africa (on energy policy and biotechnology). Some donors have also made greater use of experts from the South in their bilateral programmes. Noteworthy cases include Japan’s third-country training arrangements with Kenya, Mexico, Singapore and Thailand; Sweden’s training arrangements based in Singapore and Uruguay; Canada’s arrangements with Singapore; and Australia’s with ASEAN, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Vanuatu.

In research and development, some significant success stories can be attributed to alliances between Southern and Northern institutions. The production of high-yielding new rice varieties in West Africa involved collaboration among African, Asian, European and North American scientists under the auspices of the West Africa Rice Development Association. Technical inputs from Northern institutions complemented the efforts of 17 African member institutions of WARDA, the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture in Nigeria, the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines, and a similar institute in China.

The most important lesson to be drawn from existing examples of triangular cooperation is that when facilities in developing countries have adequate resources they can become centres of excellence.



to resolve. Satellite television broadcasting and mobile phone systems, for instance, have brought rural communities into the information age at a fraction of the cost that would have been necessary with ground-based broadcasting stations and land-linked telephones. The use of these technologies also creates a new imperative for cooperation among developing countries. Satellite “footprints” often cross national borders, and the most cost-effective use of available bandwidth requires cooperation among neighbouring countries.

At the policy level, the new information technologies allow a level and quality of interaction impossible in an earlier era. For instance the Web of Information for Development (WIDE) network of UNDP’s Special Unit on TCDC provides a unique support system for those engaged in South-South cooperation. See inside back cover.

A New Paradigm

As we move into the 21st century, it is clear that a new paradigm for development cooperation has emerged with cooperation among developing countries as its central element. It is based on a new sense of the dynamics of how knowledge is generated, human resources are used, and a recognition of the rich reservoir of knowledge that exists in developing countries. New information and communications technologies allow this knowledge to be widely shared at minimal cost. The aim of TCDC in the years to come will be to ensure that the South rises on its own rich heritage in a world of equals. □

2001

Third UN Conference on Least Developed Countries calls for intensified South-South cooperation.

2002

- Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development urges increased South-South cooperation.
- Rio+5 Conference on Environment and Development (Johannesburg).

GROUPS DEFINED BY ECONOMIC STATUS

Major Petroleum Exporters (20): Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Congo, Gabon, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, Yemen

Major Exporters of Manufactures (12): Brazil, China, China (Taiwan Province), India, Malaysia, Mexico, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey.

Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (42): Angola, Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Kenya, Lao People's Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia.

Least Developed Countries (50): Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Lao Peoples' Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Timor Leste, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zambia.

Land Locked Countries (30): Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao Peoples' Republic, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mongolia, Nepal, Niger, Paraguay, Rwanda, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

SOURCE OF COUNTRY CATEGORIES: UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics 2002



UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life.

2003

UN General Assembly Observes 25th Anniversary of Buenos Aires Conference on TCDC.

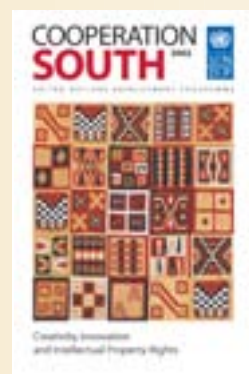
WIDE: Web of Information for Development

The Web of Information for Development (WIDE) initiative of the Special Unit is an electronic platform for the dissemination and sharing of information on innovative development practices, experts, experiences and institutions in the South. WIDE also allows institutions in the South to build their rosters of Southern experts and to offer them worldwide visibility. In collaboration with the Bureau for Development Policy, WIDE will be used as the main subregional resource platform, transforming it into a major channel for accessing information on expertise in the countries of the South. This will be significant step towards mainstreaming South-South cooperation in the activities of UNDP and the United Nations System. More information: <http://tcdc.undp.org/tcdcweb>.

Cooperation South

Cooperation South is the twice-yearly journal of the Special Unit that goes to key policy-makers in the South, United Nations research libraries and multi-lateral development organizations. It is a strategic tool for the dissemination of information and analyses on development issues and to mobilize support for South-South cooperation. Issues of the journal have highlighted a wide range of South-South policy options and promising areas for collaboration. In 2001-2002, *Cooperation South* explored policies buttressing the use of information and communications technology as a development tool. It also covered such topics as globalization, its impact on social policies and approaches to building intellectual property rights regimes that are capable of rewarding creativity and securing the access of the poor to the benefits of modern science, such as essential HIV/AIDS drugs.

Cooperation South is available in English, French and Spanish and is accessible electronically through the Web of Information for Development (WIDE) at <http://tcdc.undp.org>.



KEY SUBREGIONAL GROUPS

LATIN AMERICAN/CARIBBEAN SUBREGIONAL GROUPS

ANDEAN GROUP: AG — founded 1969. 5 Members: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela.

CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY: CARICOM — founded 1973. 14 Members: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago.

CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET: CACM — founded 1960. 5 Members: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua.

LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM: SELA — founded 1975. 27 members: Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

LATIN AMERICAN INTEGRATION ASSOCIATION: LAIA — founded 1980. 12 Members: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela.

ORGANIZATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES: OECS — founded 1981. 9 Members: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

SOUTHERN COMMON MARKET: MERCOSUR — founded 1994. 4 Members: Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Venezuela, Uruguay.

AFRICAN SUBREGIONAL GROUPS

ARAB MAGHREB UNION: UMA — founded 1989. 5 Members: Algeria, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia.

COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA: COMESA — founded 1994. 20 Members: Angola, Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY: EAC — founded 1967, revived 1999. 3 Members: Kenya, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania.

ECONOMIC AND MONETARY COMMUNITY OF CENTRAL AFRICA: CEMAC — founded 1994. 6 Members: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon.

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF CENTRAL AFRICAN STATES: ECCAS — founded 1983. 11 Members: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe.

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF THE GREAT LAKES: CEPGL — founded 1976. 3 Members: Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda.

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES: ECOWAS — founded 1975. 15 Members: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo.

MANO RIVER UNION: MRU — founded 1973. 3 Members: Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone.

SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY: SADC — founded 1992. 14 Members: Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION: UEMOA — founded 1994. 8 Members: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo.

ASIAN SUBREGIONAL GROUPS

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH-EAST ASIAN NATIONS: ASEAN — founded 1967. 10 Members: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam.

BANGKOK AGREEMENT: founded 1975. 6 Members: Bangladesh, China (joined 2001), India, Laos, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION: ECO — founded 1992. 10 Members: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL: GCC — founded 1981. 6 Members: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates.

MELANESIA SPEARHEAD GROUP: MSG — founded 1994. 5 Members: Fiji, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu.

SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION: SAARC — founded 1985. 7 Members: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.



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