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Preparatory Meeting on the Role of Women
in Industrialization in Developing
Countries

Vienna, Austria, 6 - 10 November 1978

NOTE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
ASIAN AND PACIFIC CENTRE FOR WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT RELEVANT TO
THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN INDUSTRIALIZATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES *

prepared by

Asian and Pacific Centre for Women and Development, ESCAP

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PREPARATORY STATEMENT OF THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC
CENTRE FOR WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT

BACKGROUND

The Asian and Pacific Centre for Women and Development is a training and research centre of the United Nations regional commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP). It was inaugurated early in 1977 and its overall objective is to ensure the full participation of women in the economic and social development of their communities.

Its functions include advisory service to the governments of the region, training activities, research and the establishment of a clearing house for the collection and dissemination of information relating to the women of the region.

RELEVANT ACTIVITIES

1. TCDC Workshop

A Workshop on Technical Co-operation Among Developing Countries and Women was convened in Tehran from 24-26 April 1978. The Workshop was held in the belief that for any developmental strategy to be successful women and their concerns must be fully integrated from the initial formulation through to the eventual implementation. Otherwise each strategy merely creates a new developmental imbalance between women and men, between the rich and the poor.

The impact on women of various patterns of industrialisation and of the transfer of technology, capital resources and product from developed to developing countries were considered.

The Workshop felt that the mixed performance of industrialisation and technology as it affects the sexual division of labour and of work conditions needs to be studied at much greater length to determine the influence of different industrialisation strategies and the influence of foreign capital. This should also bring more light to bear on the vexing issue of job preference by sex in situations of general high unemployment.

2. Case Studies

A number of Case Studies have been commissioned of situations experiencing the impact of change. Those relevant include the modernisation of the traditional handloom weaving industry in Jammu and Kashmir in India, the economic interventions which create and support the informal sector in Colombo, the role of women in a food processing industry in Thailand and the social and economic impact on a small rural community in Fiji of a transnational exploratory mining venture.

The aim of the Case Studies is to provide sufficient understanding of the effects of such interventions to provide a guide to planners and policy formulators.

3. Regional Training Seminar for Development Planners

The seminar was held from the 14 September to 25 October; the participants were drawn from sectoral and central planning offices from Asia and the Pacific.

The course aimed to acquaint development planners with the concepts required for planning for women in all sectors, including industry; to critically examine the national plans of selected countries to assess the adequacy of their data base and their impact on women; and, to alert planners to groups of women in special need.

4. Future Activities

(a) A workshop on employment planning for women to identify the issues relevant to the formulation of national employment policies for the female labour force.

(b) A multicountry research project on the social and economic impact of industrialisation on women in Asia and the Pacific. The study would look at the corporate structure, recruitment and employment procedures and practices, host government concessions and associated social impositions. The study would focus on industry area where the producers and/or workers were predominantly women and would also look at the distribution of gains.

It is hoped that this project will be designed and implemented in collaboration with UNIDO.

UNIDO and APCWD

There is much scope for collaboration in this area. One suggestion is to follow up the November meeting with a joint regional workshop to design in detail the multi country research project and to identify activities of pressing need, such as counselling service for women workers, protective associations and skill training needs.

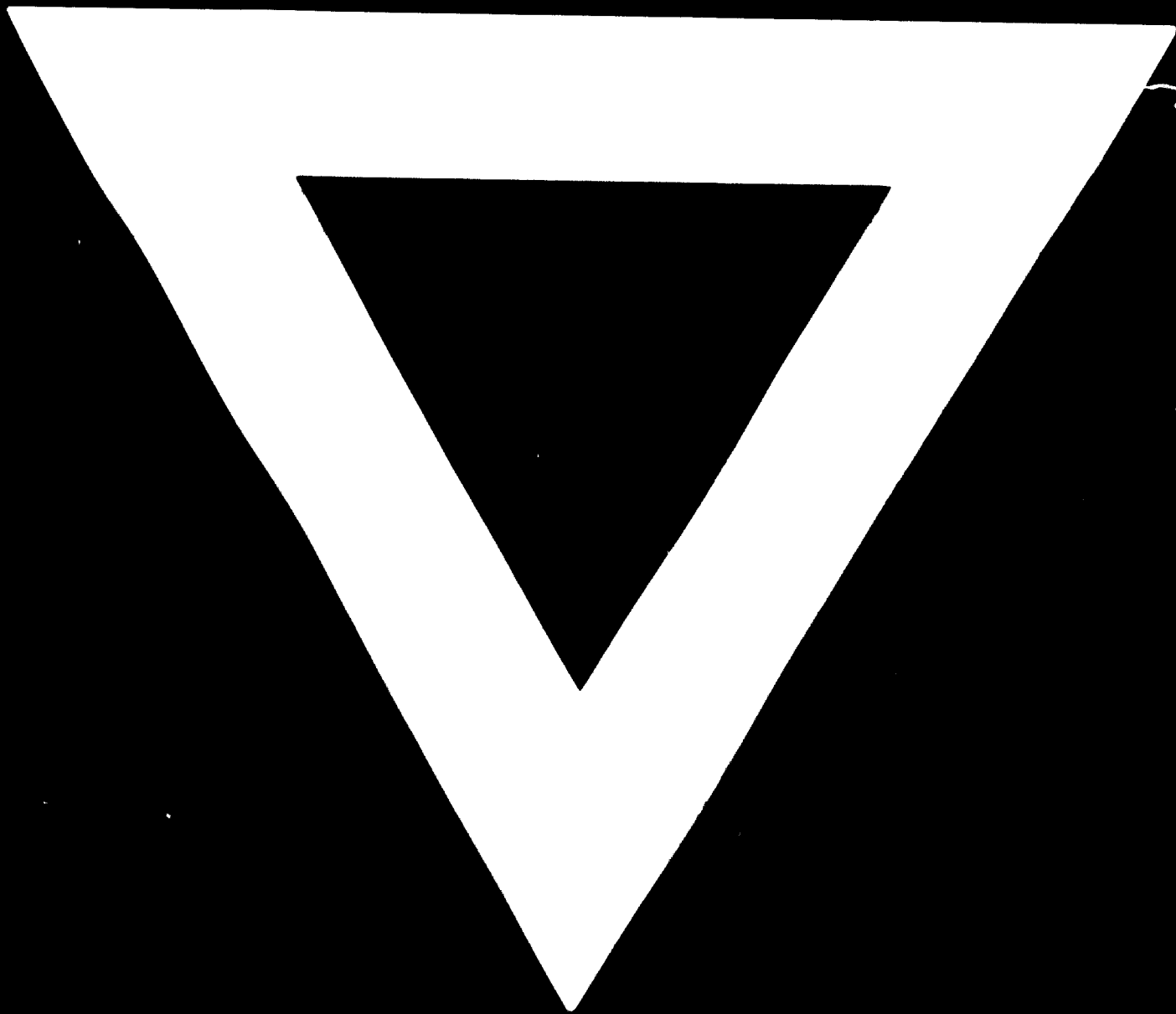
The possibilities of further collaboration could develop out of this workshop.

It is also important that APCWD design an effective means of liaising with the UNIDO field staff in the region who are an invaluable source of information and practical knowledge of trends and problems.

It is the policy of APCWD to work, whenever possible, with existing UN agencies and organisations in joint activities or to assist them in carrying out their own mandate in their area.



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