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SUB WORKING GROUP 2–Contribution 1

Source: Egypt

Title: Proposals Concerning The Establishment of The Capacity Building Centre

Abstract

This contribution describes Egypt's views on the program selection and burden expense concerning the establishment of the capacity building centre. Proposals are given on how to select programs and how the burden of expenses should be shared among WTU and member countries.

Rationale

- About the program selection

Since the purpose of establishing the capacity building centre (CBC) is to share the advanced ICTs in developed countries with the developing countries as well as to help the trainees from the developing countries with the ICTs, it is important to give the top priority to the programs proposed from the developing area.

In Egypt, the food problem is becoming increasingly serious and the healthcare problem remains unsettled. As shown in Fig. 1, in the last decade, the net grain import of the Egypt has been increasing significantly with the population growth because of little growth in the internal grain production. ICT is expected to be able to help improve the situation by providing up-to-date information about pest and disease control, early warning systems, new varieties, new ways to optimise production and regulations for quality control etc. Also in Egypt, we have an average life expectancy of only 71 years old, which is a ranking of No. 110 in the world, and have only 2.1 doctors for every 1000 people that is much lower than the average 3.1 doctors of the world. The ICT can in many ways help improve the condition, such as providing immediate access to clinical knowledge, specialized expertise, as well as using the care-at-a-distance to make the medical service to be available in sparsely populated areas etc.

To provide the CBS benefit to more people in the developing countries, we think it is necessary to select programs in every CBC following the total population of developing countries in the regions where the program theme is proposed. Assuming two CBCs are established, the first one covers the EU area, the African area, and the Arab area, and the second one covers the American area and the Asian area. For the first CBC, as shown in Table 1, the “e-Health” program proposed by both African and Arab areas might be considered to have the highest priority, followed by the “e-Agriculture” program proposed and the African area and then the “Smart City” program proposed by the Arab and EU areas. For the second CBC, following the same idea, the “Disaster Management” proposed by both the American and the Asian areas might be considered to have the

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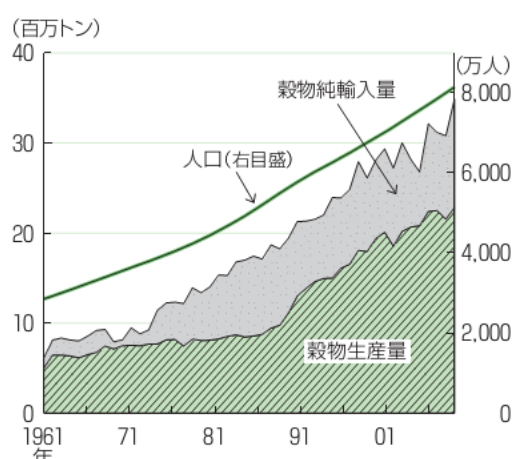


Fig. 1 Grain demand vs. population of Egypt

highest priority, followed by the “e-Agriculture” program proposed by the Asian area and then the “e-Education” program proposed by the American area.

Table 1. Total developing country population covered candidate programs of the first assumed CBC

Candidate program	Region	Total developing country population in the region (Million)	Priority order
e-Agriculture	Africa	237.08	2
e-Health	Africa, Arab	318.997	1
Smart City	Arab, EU	81.917	3
e-Education	EU	0	4

Due to limited resources, it is impossible to adopt all the programs proposed. This, however, can be made better through cooperation among CBCs since it is unlikely that all CBCs will have absolutely the same programs. For regions whose proposed programs are not adopted by the CBC they belong to but by other CBC(s) can seek for the help of other CBC(s) through cooperation between CBCs. This can make the program more effective to benefit more people. Furthermore, the operating programs should be reviewed every several years (e.g., 5 years) to meet the new demands. If a program is proposed continuously from the same region by the n-th time but has not been adopted, it is proposed to time their population of developing countries by a factor of n so that voice from minority can also be taken into account to assure certain fairness.

To make the benefits of the CBC sustainable to the developing countries, we believe the knowledge sharing including the most recent technological trend is as important as the technology training. With the information about most recent technologies, the developing countries themselves can make a longer-span plan of technology developing and can help their development in an essential way.

- About the burden of expense

Concerning the burden of expense, we think it is better to adopt a capacity-allowable principle, basically sharing the expense among member countries proportionately to the GDP. For the cost of construction it seems reasonable that the WTU pay 50~70% of the construction expense and the members countries share the remaining cost proportionately to the GDP. For the cost of operation, including the hosting fee for training, the setup country may take the personnel expense, but the member countries should share the remaining cost proportionately to the GDP. This could also be

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taken by the industry if any industry participation is allowed. The expert and trainee dispatch expenses should be taken by the home country of the experts or trainees.

As above mentioned, Egypt is pleased to take the personnel expense if we host one of the CBC. But for the other expense, we believe it is reasonable to share among member countries following the GDP proportion. Egypt also welcomes industry participation, which could also help share part of the running expense.

Proposal

Based on the above discussion, we propose that:

- The programs in every CBC should be decided following the total population of developing countries the proposing areas cover.
- The operating programs should be reviewed every several years (e.g., 5 years) to catch the new needs. If a program is proposed continuously from the same region by the n-th time but has not been adopted, it is proposed to time their population of developing countries by a factor of n so that voice from minority can also be taken into account to assure certain fairness.
- The knowledge sharing including the most recent technological trend is treated equally as the technology training.
- The WTU should pay 50~70% of establishment expense, and the members countries share the rest following the GDP proportion.
- For the running expense, including the hosting fee for training, the setup country takes the personnel expense, but the member countries share the rest following the GDP proportion.
- The expert and trainee dispatch expense should be paid by the home country of the experts or trainees.
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