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Title: Proposal document regarding CBC programs

Abstract

This document presents India's suggestion on training topics for CBC and a cost management plan based on participants' financial situations and importance of the primary industry especially to developing countries.

Rationale

We, as part of developing countries, have struggles with limited budgets and lack of technical capabilities. As such, capacity building program at CBCs with WTU's support will be significant opportunities for countries like us.

The suggested topics, disaster management and e-agriculture, are part of the fundamental issue to many nations. Furthermore, managing disasters would be an important factor from agricultural aspect as well. We believe that these issues are likely to pose direct impacts to people's lives - for instance, developing such techniques can possibly save thousands of people's lives from massive floods or earthquakes. This will consequently protect industries including farming also.

Agriculture is a key industry in many developing countries. In fact, developing nations in WTU have higher ratio of agricultural production to its entire General Domestic Product (GDP), compared to developed nations. E-agriculture has possibility for nations like us to increase not only the efficiency of farming but also income of those who are engaged in primary industry as well, by introducing some automated systems for instance. India has its agriculture population counting up to a half of the entire nation and is one of the countries that produce and export highest amount of grains.

The largest and most serious concern for our nation is the budget constraints. We hope to contribute to this organisation in a way which is different from financial aspect - human resource term, for example by sending trainees to render the future training/knowledge sharing sessions more active and fruitful. We, as an agriculture country, are confident that we will be able to provide practical insight that can be useful in terms of program discussion. This human resource investment will not possibly pose an immediate effect but surely beneficial in a long term. The trainees at the CBC will be able to further help other developing nations or eventually to return to the CBC as a trainer.

CONTACTS: NAME YUKAKO UCHIDA

TEL: +81-3-3518-4600

FAX: +81-3-3518-4602

EMAIL: GLOBAL-CC@JPCERT.ORG.JP

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In order for the project to be sufficiently funded in a fair manner (based on each country's capability), it is our recommendation that each participating country should bear the cost based on an international standard such as GDP. We believe this will permit a fair and transparent allocation of expenses and reduce possible burden of countries with budget constraints. Another approach for the stable fund supply for the project is to open the program eligibility to private sectors as well, where we prepare a different fund scheme from public entities. This will allow a wider range of not only funding option but also knowledge sharing opportunities based on each company's expertise. One of the possible outcomes from this suggestion is that public sectors and such private companies participating in the project may be able to develop their partnership for future collaboration.

Proposal

From the discussions above, we would like to propose the following items:

- "Disaster management" and/or "e-agriculture" is suggested to be included in the discussion topic for CBCs.
- Even if the CBC is not launched within the Asia-Pacific region, those topics should be continuously discussed, preferably at a nearby CBC.
- For training opportunities, the costs for event arrangement should be supported by WTU or developed countries, for example based on an international standards.
- Financial support from WTU and developed countries for CBC management will be highly appreciated, even in case where the CBC is located in our nation.
- India is happy to bear costs for sending trainees to CBCs for educational purposes.
- Active participation from private sector to the training program should be encouraged, including financial support.

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