
PROJECT:	Capacity-building of the UN Regional Centre for Peace & Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific
DISARMAMENT FOCUS:	Regional Disarmament
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PROPOSED TIMEFRAME:	2009 - 2011
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS:	Asia and the Pacific region (43 States)

Rationale

At its 62nd session, the UN General Assembly unanimously welcomed the relocation of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (RCPD) to Kathmandu, Nepal, and requested the Secretary General to expedite necessary preparations to enable the Centre to function effectively. The physical operation of the UN Regional Centre from the region represents a great opportunity for Member States to help build the Centre's capacity to serve effectively the needs of the 43 States faced with an impressive array of security and disarmament-related issues in this vast and diverse region, thus contributing significantly to global disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.

The Centre was mandated by the General Assembly to provide, on request, substantive support for initiatives and other activities mutually agreed upon by the Member States of Asia and the Pacific region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament, through appropriate utilization of available resources, and shall coordinate the implementation of regional activities in Asia and the Pacific. However the Centre's all staffing needs (with the exception of the Director) and activities/projects rely solely on voluntary contributions.

This project proposal is designed to correct the imbalance between the demands placed on the Centre and its means to meet them. Its aim is to strengthen the Centre's capacity to be proactive and to serve as an effective platform for regional disarmament and security in the service of Member States in the region and the international community at large.

This project is aimed at building the Centre's capacity in carrying out its work in three core programmatic areas: promoting global disarmament norms; regional and sub-regional disarmament and security initiatives; and peace and disarmament outreach activities. In this connection, the proposal calls for core funding that will:

Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament
in Asia and the Pacific

- Enable the Centre to fully carry out its mandate, across the entire range of disarmament and non-proliferation issues pertaining to ODA's mandate;
- Allow the Centre to be more responsive to calls from Member States and Regional Organizations for assistance with their regional disarmament initiatives by enhancing the ability of the Centre and its Director to build productive and sustained working relations with national authorities and relevant organizations in the region;
- Enable the Centre to promote regional disarmament and security-related initiatives that address regional, sub-regional and national specificities and needs, as well as to provide targeted advice and overall support, by developing expertise in both the Pacific region and the various Asian sub-regions;
- Increase the Centre's ability to assist in long-term national and regional capacity building in the field of peace and disarmament in Asia and the Pacific by building technical expertise in core programmatic areas;
- Enhance the Centre's role as a forum for dialogue and cooperation among States in Asia and the Pacific on issues related to international security, disarmament and non-proliferation, by undertaking outreach, awareness-raising and information activities, as well as organize the necessary conferences and forum meetings, as requested by Member States.

Estimated cost and staffing needs

Un-earmarked funds, "core funding", are crucial to the establishment and operation of the Centre. Core funding is needed for:

- 3 Professional staff positions (P3)
- 3 GS staff positions
- 1 IT staff (GS)
- Travel funds for resource mobilization and outreach activities

In order to fulfill its mandate and to develop as an institution, the **staffing and funding needs of the Centre** are as follows:

1. Management and Oversight:

For the Director to carry out effective oversight and management obligations, as well as undertake resource mobilization activities necessary to sustain the Centre's operations, core funding must be obtained for the following.

- 1 Administrative Assistant (GS staff): will assist the Director with mandatory UN management matters such as budget management, OIOS and IMDIS outputs and performance assessment reporting, and liaise with headquarters on all administrative matters related to staff travel, contracts, salaries and benefits.
- Travel funds: funds are needed to support the Director's resource mobilization and outreach activities to UN regional hubs as well as to capitals of important

donor countries, and also to attend General Assembly First committee and other such meetings at Headquarters.

Core funding is required to cover the administrative assistant position as well as travel funds.

2. Programmatic areas

Establishing a core team of Professional staff is essential for the Centre to begin its work in the 3 core programmatic areas, whilst also developing crucial sub-regional expertise. As it covers a larger number of sub-regions, it is reasonable to consider that the “Asian affairs team” will require one more staff than the “Pacific affairs team” to develop and manage the execution of substantive projects. As the Centre grows, additional Professional staff, funded by projects, will be added to the initial core team to work on specific projects in each of the three programme areas.

- 2 Professional staff (P3) for the “Asian affairs team”: provide expertise disarmament issues in the various Asian sub-regions, establish effective working relations with appropriate officials in relevant Asian ministries, build a knowledge network with relevant academic and civil society institutions in the Asian region, and develop concrete projects that properly reflect the specificities of the various Asian sub-regions.
- 1 Professional Staff (P3)for the “Pacific affairs team”: provide expertise disarmament issues in the Pacific, establish effective working relations with appropriate officials in relevant Pacific ministries, build a knowledge network with relevant academic and civil society institutions in the Pacific region, and develop concrete projects that properly reflect the specificities of Pacific countries.
- 2 support staff (GS staff): assist the professional staff in their outreach and networking activities and all other administrative matters.
- 1 Information Technology (IT) support staff: develop and maintain the Centre’s IT equipment (computers, server) as well as develop and maintain RCPD’s website and databases, as its main tool for public relations, information and outreach.