



---

# Towards a Regional STI Observatory (RSTIO)

Capacity Building Workshop on Science, Technology and Innovation  
Observatories in ESCWA Member Countries

H.H. Kouyoumjian Ph.D.  
ESCWA Consultant

---

ESCWA, Beirut, 11-12 November  
2009

1



## Capacity Building Workshop on Science, Technology and Innovation Observatories in ESCWA Member Countries

---

- Phase 1:  
Towards the Establishment of Science,  
Technology and Innovation Observatories  
in ESCWA Member Countries (11-12 November  
2009)
  
- Phase 2:  
Capacity Building Workshop on Science,  
Technology and Innovation Indicators and  
Observatories in ESCWA MCs (Dec./Jan 2010)

---

ESCWA, Beirut, 11-12 November  
2009

2



## ESCWA Activities

---

- The ESCWA Research and Development Portal (ERDP)
- Network of Technology Parks and Technology Incubators (NTPI)
- Regional Information Society Observatory
- ESCWA Technology Centre
  - *Promotion of a network of national STI Observatories (information hub)*
  - *Regional observatory for STI indicators*



## Examples of STIOs

---

- Regional
  - European Science and Technology Observatory
  - Union of Islamic Science and Technology Centres
  - UNESCO Observatory Portal
  - ARABSTATS
  - EUROSTAT



## OTHER Examples

---

- ❑ Network of Science and Technology Observatories for the Latin American Countries
- ❑ The African Network of Science, Technology and Innovation Observatory
- ❑ Science and Technology Awareness Network in Canada

## RICYT

---

- ❑ Designs indicators for STI;
- ❑ Provides international comparability and interchange of information;
- ❑ Organizes regional programmes for compiling info on STI;
- ❑ Engaged in capacity building and holding workshops;
- ❑ Publishing and dissemination of relevant information .....



- Why is this such an important issue for development?
- How to go about it successfully?



ESCWA, Beirut, 11-12 November  
2009

7



## The Challenge

- CONVERTING KNOWLEDGE EMBODIED IN HUMAN CAPITAL INTO SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS



ESCWA, Beirut, 11-12 November  
2009

8



## Because:

---

- Development and technology go together
- Need to know the local and regional STI scene
- Improved data needed to get out of developmental crises
- Need for comparable data for benchmarking and mapping progress



## *PREVAILING CONDITIONS*

---

- Willingness to set up STIO's
- Availability of indigenous personnel
- Various structures
- Participation in regional activities
- Limited local experience in data harvesting
- Participation in UN lead activities
- Some regional experience in establishing STIO's



## THE REGIONAL SCENE

- ❑ Differing mandates of hosting structures
- ❑ Different in socio-economic conditions
- ❑ Different levels of coop. with Private sector
- ❑ Independent Mgmt. board perceived differently
- ❑ Binding commitments different
- ❑ Willingness of partners not gauged
- ❑ Legislation as regards dissemination of info varies

ESCWA, Beirut, 11-12 November  
2009

11

	<b>Info Providers</b>	<b>1995 KEI Index</b>	<b>2008 KEI Index</b>
Bahrain	5	6.07	5.58*
Egypt	20	4.7	4.52*
Iraq	3	-	-
Jordan	3	4.87	5.23
Kuwait	1	5.51	5.87
Lebanon	7	5.05	4.82*
Oman	2	4.28	5.01
Palestine	1	-	-
Qatar	1	5.32	5.29*
Saudi Arabia	3	4.82	5.24
Sudan	0	-	-
Syria	2	3.1	2.93*
UAE	7	5.83	6.06
Yemen	2	2	1.9*



## *NECESSARY CONDITIONS*

---

- Cooperative effort by all: private public
- Modern STI policy mechanisms
- Link-up with regional and international structures
- Capacity building and experience sharing
- Good governance -transparency
- Political and financial support

## Context

---

- Knowledge Society
- Globalization
- Competition
- Innovation



***TECHNOLOGY***

## A Process Based on:

---

- **Interaction** of Joint Activities & **Partnerships**
- Knowledge Resources Within Public and Private Enterprises (**Sharing of Info**)
- Technology Diffusion (**Transfer**)

## THIS IS BEST DONE BY:

---

- Mobilizing and/or transforming available capabilities and resources
- Techno-acquisition becoming integral part of national and regional economy
- A better knowledge of the market place





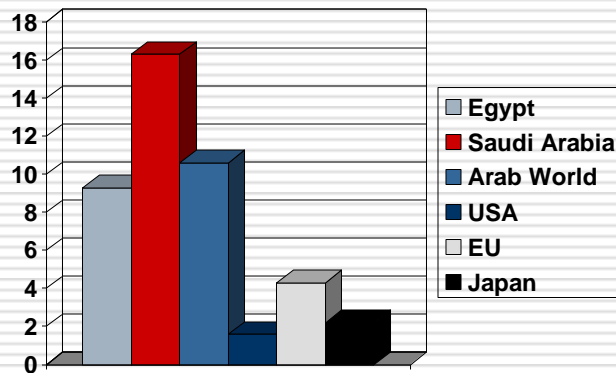
## 1. A Collective Mind Set

- Technology is the vehicle for development
- Is not only private business that engages in it
- Universities and academic institutions have a vital role to play
- Promotion of university and industry linkages
- Providing the enabling environment

ESCWA, Beirut, 11-12 November  
2009

17

## Trade in Services / GDP



INOC Izmir 20-22 Oct. 2009

18

Another way of looking at the same thing!!  
(in millions of dollars: UNIDO)

---

- In Egypt ratio of imported services (2742.6 USD) to imports of capital goods(2863.0) is 99.8%
  
- In Saudi Arabia the ratio is 19314.6 over 7689.6 i.e. 251.2%

## ***A NICHE FOR THE REGIONAL STIO***

---

- Platform for awareness and dialogue – information is to be shared in an open space;
- A means for authorities to assist in evaluating their national efforts in R D I and to adapt adequate strategies;
- Mechanism to analyse region-specific problems in order to introduce solutions to methodological issues: data collection, acquiring databases, building indicators etc.



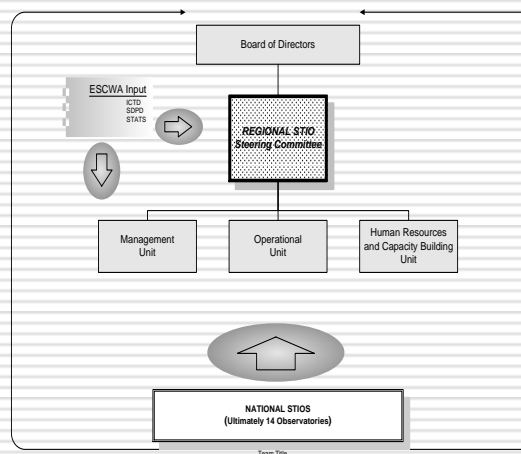
## Cont'

- ❑ To evaluate institutional capabilities of regional STI organizations in order to ensure their active participation in statistics collection and dissemination
- ❑ Produce studies and forecasting
- ❑ Organize training programmes for operators
- ❑ Integrate the region in international systems by adopting common methodologies;
- ❑ Establish mechanisms for dissemination

ESCWA, Beirut, 11-12 November  
2009

21

## STRUCTURE



ESCWA, Beirut, 11-12 November  
2009

22



---

Thank you