



## ESCWA Advisory Committee Convenes

ESCWA Advisory Committee held its first meeting in 2011 on 24 February at the UN House in Beirut and was attended by chiefs of diplomatic missions of the 14 Member States of the Regional Commission for Western Asia. The meeting was chaired by Under-Secretary-General and ESCWA Executive Secretary Rima Khalaf, who laid out the Commission's work programme for the biennium 2012-2013.



Participants discussed preparations for the fifth meeting of the Technical Committees, to be held on 6-7 April 2011, and they reviewed ESCWA's main achievements and projects in 2010, as well as encouraging Arab countries that have not yet joined

the Regional Commission to do so.

ESCWA seeks to enhance economic and social development in the countries of the region and to strengthen cooperation, interaction and information-sharing among them. ■



### IN THIS ISSUE:

- ESCWA Advisory Committee Convenes
- Development of Education in Arab countries
- ESCWA Upcoming Meetings (to mid-March)


## Development of Education in Arab countries

– According to the Shanghai League Table of 2006, not a single Arab university is among the top five hundred;

– The schooling index, indicating the average number of years a learner spends in education, is 7.7 years in Arab countries as a whole, but falls to 2.7 years in some of the least developed Arab countries;

– Traditional curricula are based on memorization, merely testing learners' ability to recall information;

– The distribution of students over disciplines is uneven, (low enrolment in science and technology disciplines);

– The knowledge structure and institu- 

## ESCWA Upcoming Meetings (to mid-March)

Name of Meeting	Date and Venue
EGM on «Post Financial Crisis and Potential Exit Strategies» (External Peer Review for the Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region 2009-2010)	24-25 February 2011 Beirut
Expert Group Meeting on Follow up to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond in the Arab region	28 February-1 March 2011 Beirut
Expert Group Meeting on Transport and Trade Facilitation in the ESCWA Region	1-2 March 2011 Beirut
Workshop on Requirements for the establishment of Single Windows for handling export/import procedures and formalities in the ESCWA Region	3-4 March 2011 Beirut
EGM on data and metadata reporting	5-7 March 2011 Cairo
EGM on Enabling Environment for the Development of Arabic e-Services	8-9 March 2011 Beirut
Workshop on Opportunities for Industry in the Climate Change Era	11 March 2011 Beirut
Second Training Workshop: "Water Evaluation and Planning (WEAP) System", with the Ministry of Energy & Water (MEW) of Lebanon in cooperation with ACSAD and BGR, Germany	7-11 March 2011 Beirut
EGM on Standardizing Information Society Measurements in the ESCWA Region	15-17 March 2011 Beirut

## Development of Education in Arab countries (Cont.)

tional relationships are based on domination, coercion and unilateralism;

– Most stages of education suffer from dualities that give rise to contradictions such as those existing between public and private education, education that follows foreign systems and education that adopts an Arab

system, technical and general education, religious and non-religious education, sex-segregated education, and other divisions within the educational system;

– Educational gaps between male and female, rich and poor, and urban and rural areas persist. ■

*Source: League of Arab States, the Secretary-General's report on development of education in the Arab countries, March 2007, pp. 84-94, quoted in Population and Development Report Issue No. 4 Youth In The ESCWA Region: Situation Analysis And Implications For Development Policies. ESCWA, 2009*

### Address

P.O. Box 11-8575, Riad El-Solh, Beirut-Lebanon e-mail: [webmaster-escwa@un.org](mailto:webmaster-escwa@un.org)  
Tel.: 961-1-981301; Fax: 961-1-981510 website: [www.escwa.un.org](http://www.escwa.un.org)