

# Regional Cooperation in a Capability-Building Program for Local Officials

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*Much pressure has been placed in the hands of local officials in advancing socioeconomic and political conditions in the Asia-Pacific region. Having a better view of the needs and demands of their immediate constituents, they are in a better position to articulate, design and implement development programs. For this reason it is necessary that the administrative capability of local officials to handle such responsibility be enhanced and that local officials of the Asia-Pacific region collaborate their efforts and network their training programs to maximize the use of resources and manpower. Networking reckoned to be an effective mechanism in pursuing development goals amidst the scarcity of resources, involves the following: (1) identification of common problems; (2) mutual and coordinative efforts in resolving said problems; (3) sharing of voluntary services; and (4) exchange of information, expertise and experience.*

## Introduction

In the last two decades, significant socioeconomic developments and politico-administrative changes rapidly took place within the Asia-Pacific region. The highly developed and economically progressive countries had undergone an accelerated pace of industrialization, reached a high level of advancement in technology, transformed areas into highly urbanized centers and had almost completely eradicated poverty.

In the case of the developing nations, they may have reached a noteworthy stage of economic and social development but problems of unemployment and social services, to a certain measure still persist and full-scale industrialization is far from being achieved, for agriculture remains the predominant industry. Some of them may still be experiencing a political upheaval and/or striving to institute reforms in their politico-administrative systems.

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