

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

**TECHNOLOGY CAPACITY-BUILDING INITIATIVES FOR THE
TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY IN THE ESCWA MEMBER COUNTRIES**

United Nations

Distr.
GENERAL
E/ESCWA/TECH/2001/1
7 June 2001
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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01-0573

Preface

The present study was conducted in implementation of activity No. 4R22fD309 within the work programme of the Technology Section in the Sectoral Issues and Policies Division of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), for the biennium 2000-2001.

This study is one of a series of activities carried out by the Technology Section with the aim of promoting technological capacity-building in the ESCWA member countries. In particular, the Expert Group Meeting on Capacity Building Initiatives for the Twenty-first Century, held in Beirut from 1 to 3 November 2000,¹ was concerned with many of the issues addressed in this study. Related activities in the course of the past few years have included expert group meetings and studies on:

(a) Science and technology policies in the twenty-first century;²

(b) Assessment of research and development in selected ESCWA member countries: local technological inputs.³

The present study sets the scene for future activities aimed at the launching of initiatives in the ESCWA member countries with a view to the development of new institutional forms, including technology parks, technology incubators and high-technology enterprise clusters as well as bridging organizations linking research and development institutions with small and medium enterprises in the production and service sectors.

¹ The report of that meeting is shortly to be published by ESCWA under the reference E/ESCWA/TECH/2000/3.

² E/ESCWA/TECH/1999/4.

³ E/ESCWA/TECH/1997/5.