

Information for Regional Development :
An Introduction to the Information Activities of
the United Nations Centre for Regional Development

地域開発に関する情報システムについて：
国際連合地域開発センターの場合

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要 旨

国際連合地域開発センターの情報部門はエカフエ諸国の開発関係の情報交換——各国内または各国間での情報交換——を円滑に行う手助けをすることをその最終的な目的としている。そのためには、各国の情報センターやその他同様な機関と連携を保ち、情報交換のネットワークを作る必要がある。

まずその第一段階として、日本国内の開発関係専門図書館の間にネットワークを確立すること。その場合、特に日本の中心となる研究訓練機関や関連の政府機関との間に公式なルートを開くことに重点をおき、日本国内の協力体制をかためる。

次に第二段階として、このような協力体制を他のアジア諸国に拡大して行くのであるが、特にアジア諸国を対象とした場合、情報交換によってどの程度まで双方がその恩恵によくすることが出来るかという疑問が出てくる。このような協力に対して意欲的なのはがいして小規模な機関が多いからである。したがって、このような協力体制を確立するためには強力な誘因とそれを推進していくためのすぐれた企画がなくてはならない。

これは非常に野心的かつ複雑多岐にわたる試みであるが、広範にわたる重複しがちな情報をネットワークを通じて整理するという意味で画期的なものである。この中にあってセンターのはたす役割は協力体制を強化し、調整することである。

本文では、次の順序に従って、国際連合地域開発センターの情報活動を紹介しながら、“地域開発に関する情報システム”を考えていきたいと思う。

- I. 地域開発の定義
- II. 国際連合地域開発センターの沿革
- III. 国際連合地域開発センターの機能
- IV. 情報部門と図書館活動
- V. 図書館の利用者
- VI. 蔵書の種類と冊数

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- VII. 開館時間と閲覧方針
- VIII. 資料整理
- IX. 情報サービス
- X. 情報活動 (1) 図書館関係
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12. Administration/staffing
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“During the last few years there has in most countries been a remarkable increase in the interest and demand for statistics and other information with reference to geographical areas at the subnational level.”¹⁾

I. Regional Development Defined

“Regional development” is defined by the United Nations as “a process pertaining to particular parts of a country called ‘regions’.”²⁾ Regional development should be understood as being an integral part of overall national development, with emphasis on interlocal relationships. Planning for regional (sub-national) development, therefore, involves the administrative co-ordination of policies and strategies aimed at bringing about a balanced growth within certain areas of a country.

The United Nations has been involved in promoting research and training in regional development since 1966.³⁾ Since then an em-

phasis on the regional approach has been felt to be of particular importance to developing countries, especially during the Second Development Decade (1971-1980). Borne of this official concern for developing countries and their planning activities is the first UN regional development centre in the world, established in Nagoya, Japan.

II. Historical Background of the Centre

The United Nations Centre for Regional Development is part of the United Nations Programme of research and training in regional development. Its forerunner was the Chubu Centre for United Nations Research and Training Programme in Regional Development, which was established in Nagoya in 1968 in accordance with the 1965 resolution of the UN Economic and Social Council. This resolution and the resulting Chubu Centre laid the foundation for the present Centre. The Chubu Centre conducted research and training programmes under the auspices of the Government of Japan and the United Nations. It also received support and assistance from various local governments and private organizations.

On 18 June 1971, Secretary-General U Thant and the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, Mr. Toru Nakagawa, signed an agreement establishing the present Centre for research, training, information exchange and advisory services, primarily for those developing countries wishing to participate.⁴⁾

As a result, the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) was established in October 1971 as a regular UN institute. The Government of Japan made an initial

contribution of US \$292,094 for the establishment and operation of the Centre. Voluntary contributions from the Government of Japan and other sources are held as a fund-in-trust of the United Nations and administered by its Secretary-General in accordance with the financial regulations and rules of the United Nations.

III. Functions of UNCRD

The activities of the Centre have been organized into four basic areas: training, research, information exchange and advisory services. The training function provides the keystone for the Centre's work. Participants in the training courses come from the developing countries of Asia. They are career civil servants with an established background in development planning. Participants in the courses held at the Centre during the period from 1968 to 1973 have come mainly from eighteen Asian nations, but others have come from the Bahamas and from Brazil. Visiting lecturers and consultants from all parts of the world have shared their experiences in development projects of all kinds. At the time of this writing, one country course, two general combined courses and one implementation seminar have been held since 1971. The Third General Combined Course is now underway with emphasis on rural development. (A breakdown of the past and present courses is given in Table

I).

Training at UNCRD is designed to provide a pragmatic approach to development planning. The programme will continue to emphasize the comprehensive viewpoint rather than specific aspects of each sectoral field.

UNCRD conducts research relevant to important issues in regional development and to the training needs in regional development of Asian countries. Research is designed to identify the ways of planning most suited to the situation of dynamic social change found in many of Asia's developing countries. Results of this research will be used in the training courses, and this integration of research and training will lead to improvement in development planning.

As for specific research activities, current projects deal with the role of cities in attaining desirable population distribution in the context of rapid urbanization; the role of government in regional development; economic concepts and tools for regional development in Asia; and problems of the environment in regional development planning.

As stipulated in the 1971 Agreement, advisory services would be provided by the Centre in response to requests from developing countries for assistance in training and research. Advisory service activities, however, are not yet in full operation. This activity will be strengthened in view of increasing demands for service.

Table I. UNCRD Training Courses

Course	Duration	Number of participants	Number of countries	Remarks
One-Country Course for Korea	November 1971	16	1	
First General Combined Course	February 1972-June 1972	19	13	
Second General Combined Course	February 1973-June 1973	23	11	
Implementation Seminar	November 1973	18	10	Director's level
Third General Combined Course	February 1974-June 1974 (one month in the Philippines)	26	13	Rural development

IV. Information Systems and Library Activities

The Centre's third function is "to assist developing countries in promoting the exchange of data on research, practical experience, teaching and other relevant subjects in regional development and planning and related fields."⁵⁾

Several important institutions have already been established throughout the world under the sponsorship of the United Nations for research and training in regional development. To meet increasing needs for development planning, many new institutions will be established in Asia. The Centre's function as a vital link in information exchange is designed to help all those concerned with understanding—and hence, improving—every aspect of development planning.

As part of the system of information exchange, the Centre's library already has a small but growing collection of books, pamphlets, and other materials in English and Japanese on regional development. This collection is supplemented by material obtained from libraries, institutions, and government agencies throughout Japan.

V. Library Usership

Basically conceived as a support function for research and training at UNCRD, the Library's major clientele is the staff at the Centre. Of the staff, the professional category personnel (currently seven in number) and the higher ranks of the general service staff, comprising some four or five individuals, use the library facilities on a regular (daily) basis. The remainder of the full-time staff (15 or so) are infrequent users of the collection.

The research and training fellows comprise the second major clientele of the Library. While they are here, their use of the Library may be intensive, but note should be made of the average stay, less than one year. This is true especially for training fellows. The number of research and training fellows has totalled 102 since 1971. They have utilized

books and periodicals both in the Library, and have borrowed materials for use at their desks or in their homes.

Others who have used the collections have done so primarily as short-term visitors to the Library. Their number does not exceed one or two a month.

Infrequently loans are made to other institutions. UNCRD borrows primarily for its senior staff many more materials than it loans. The Nagoya University Library is the principle local contact for UNCRD borrowing.

VI. Library Collection: Scope and Size

The scope, or emphasis, of the UNCRD Library, reflecting its directly supportive role, is necessarily limited to several basic themes relevant to research and training for development planning. These themes are being defined through a process of questionnaire-and-discussion meetings with the core staff.

The size of the library collection is estimated to be 3,000 monographs in English, 2,000 monographs in Japanese, 31 periodicals in English and 18 periodicals in Japanese.

The general collection consists of English language (and some Japanese language) current books and periodicals covering the fields of social, economic and physical planning in their broader aspects. In certain areas, in-depth primary source data and important secondary works are collected in support of current research topics.

A basic reference collection, including encyclopedias, directories, annuals, dictionaries, and maps, etc., consists of some 150 titles.

A sizeable number of pamphlets, including institutional newsletters, annual reports, bulletins, and brochures are serviced from one vertical file cabinet.

Until the move later into new quarters, foreseen in June 1974, the physical location of the collection is as follows:

The library office is located on the 2d floor of the main building. The library staff, all periodicals, the reference collection, maps, and works on Japan are located here.

The library reading room is located on the 3d floor of the main building. General works of the collection, including books, reports, plans, etc. are arranged on open shelves by country. Five tables and eight chairs are situated against the windows for users. Natural lighting is sufficient except for early evening and night use.

VII. Library Hours, Circulation Policy, and Mechanics

The library office is open from 9:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. The reading room is open whenever the building is open. All books, periodicals, reports, maps, etc. circulate to staff and fellows currently associated with the Centre, and must be signed for when taking them from the library office or the reading room. The normal period of loan is two weeks. In some cases, the loan of materials is limited to over-night or week-end use, as is the case with reference books (marked "REF") and certain other materials which are in high demand.

Each cataloged book has a card in the pocket in the back of the book which is used to record the name of the borrower. The signed card is left with the librarian in the library office.

Materials are returned directly to the librarian in charge.

VIII. Library Technical Processing

The classification scheme employed at UNCRD is based on the Universal Decimal Classification (UDC) with emphasis on geographical arrangement. Topical arrangement is achieved through the UDC schedule for general works and for material sub-arranged under each country. (Books marked GEN, i.e. general works, are therefore either theoretical works entirely or are treatises which have no strong geographical treatment.)

The alphabetical divisions used in the scheme are composed of three letters which abbreviate as logically as possible each class, e.g. BAN, for Bangladesh. (See Table II.) Three numbers

Table II. UNCRD library classification
(modified UDC)

REF Reference	LAT Latin America
PER Periodical	MAL Malaysia
MAP Maps, plans	MEL Melanesia
FLM Film	MIC Micronesia
PAM Pamphlet	MON Mongolia
NSP Newspapers	NEP Nepal
PIC Picture file	NZD New Zealand
REC Recordings, tapes	OCE Oceania
GEN General collection	PAK Pakistan
AFG Afghanistan	PHP Philippines
AFR Africa	POL Polynesia
ARB Arab countries	SNG Singapore
ASA Asia	SRL Sri Lanka
AUS Australia	SEA Southeast Asia
BAN Bangladesh	SOU South Asia
BUR Burma	SOV Soviet Union
CAN Canada	THA Thailand
CHN China (People's Republic of)	TWN Taiwan
EAS East Asia	USA United States
EUR Europe	VTN Vietnam
HON Hong Kong	WIN West Indies
IDS Indonesia	AIC Aichi Pref.
IND India	CHU Chubu Region
IRA Iran	GIF Gifu Pref.
ISR Israel	MIE Mie Pref.
JPN Japan	NAG Nagoya City
KMR Khmer	OSA Kinki Region
KOR Korea	TOK National Capital Region
LAO Laos	

following the three letters are modified UDC class numbers, always limited to three numbers. These are followed by the first letter of the main entry word, usually from the authors' surname. These elements constitute the call number for each document, e.g; a book on town and country planning in Bangladesh by an author whose surname begins with G:

BAN
711G

Descriptors are chosen when cataloging material in order to index the collection by subject.

These descriptors are chosen primarily from the *Thesaurus of Key Terms in Regional Development and Planning*, compiled by the Documentation and Information Service, Institutional Development and Popular Participation Section, Social Development Division, UN Headquarters. A slight modification in this list has been made to meet the needs of UNCRD's library.

Traditional cataloging, i. e. the creation of a bibliographical record of the collection on 3×5 cards, has been suspended since October 1973. In its stead, cataloging is currently done on data work sheets submitted for key-punching for computer storage. The record of the Library is thereafter generated in the form of monthly computer reports cumulated quarterly, semi-annually, tri-quarterly and annually. The first such report was produced in early March 1974. It is anticipated that it will take several years to bring the entire collection under computer control.

In subsequent phases of the cataloging program, periodicals and serials received by UNCRD will likewise be entered into the computer record. It is anticipated that journal articles of primary importance to research and training will be analyzed in the record.

Book and periodical stamping, pocketing, labeling and binding when necessary are integral processing elements currently performed by one full-time library staff member.

IX. Information Services

Staff routing (currently conducted manually) of library materials on a selective basis is intended to accomplish the following:

- 1) Current awareness in the field(s) of specialization of each expert and assistant. This is accomplished by circulating appropriate books, journals, bibliographies, reports and announcements as they are received by the information section.
- 2) Acquisition decision-making assistance is necessary for the proper selection of material to be collected by the Library, and is an extension of the current awareness service.

The critical evaluation of documents before they are acquired is a vital step towards the building of a sound and relevant library, and the varied inputs of the professional staff form major contributions to the Library's primary objective.

The periodicals contents service exists to help the staff maintain currency in the areas of their special interest as new knowledge appears in professional journals. By routing to the staff a photocopy of the content pages of each journal, experts also can learn of the current interests of fellow staff members, who initial articles they wish to see or have copied for them in entirety.

Reference and referral services are maintained on a need-response basis, but staff limitations prevent all but the most general form of help. Literature searches can be performed only on special occasions and upon considerable advanced notice. Construction of bibliographical guides is an impossible activity for the current level of staffing, and outside generation of such aids has been necessary from the beginning. Indeed, a major bibliography series is under consideration. UNCRD maintains inter-library loan contact with local institutions and several in Tokyo which have generously provided materials (or copies) upon request.

X. Information Products (1): Library-oriented

ALSTAR (*the Accessions List by Subject, Title, Author, and Registry*) is a monthly computer-generated record of receipt of books, reports, plans, etc. by the Library, with growing cumulations produced every three months. ALSTAR is intended to serve as a current finding tool for users of the collection and in its cumulated form serves as a book catalog with monthly supplements. It also will provide a general guide to the development planning literature with particular emphasis on Asia but also of some general interest. ALSTAR is sent to various libraries, institutions of research and training, and selected individuals.

Still in the planning stages is a major bibliographical undertaking tentatively entitled,

Development Planning in (name of country); an annotated bibliography of English language sources.

Training documents. Reproduced for both internal use and outside distribution.

XI. Information Products (II): UNCRD Publications Series

United Nations Centre for Regional Development. A pamphlet published in 1972 explaining the role of the centre.

Asian Development Dialogue (ADD). An occasional magazine providing a forum for exchange of experiences among workers in the field of regional development in the countries of Asia.

Number one June 1973

Number Two December 1973

UNCRD address list/directory

Course announcements

Background papers. Reproduced for limited circulation. Papers that are not yet considered suitable for wide distribution outside.

XII. Administration/Staffing

The office of the Chief of information Systems is manned by two foreign experts, including the Chief, and the Publications Editor.

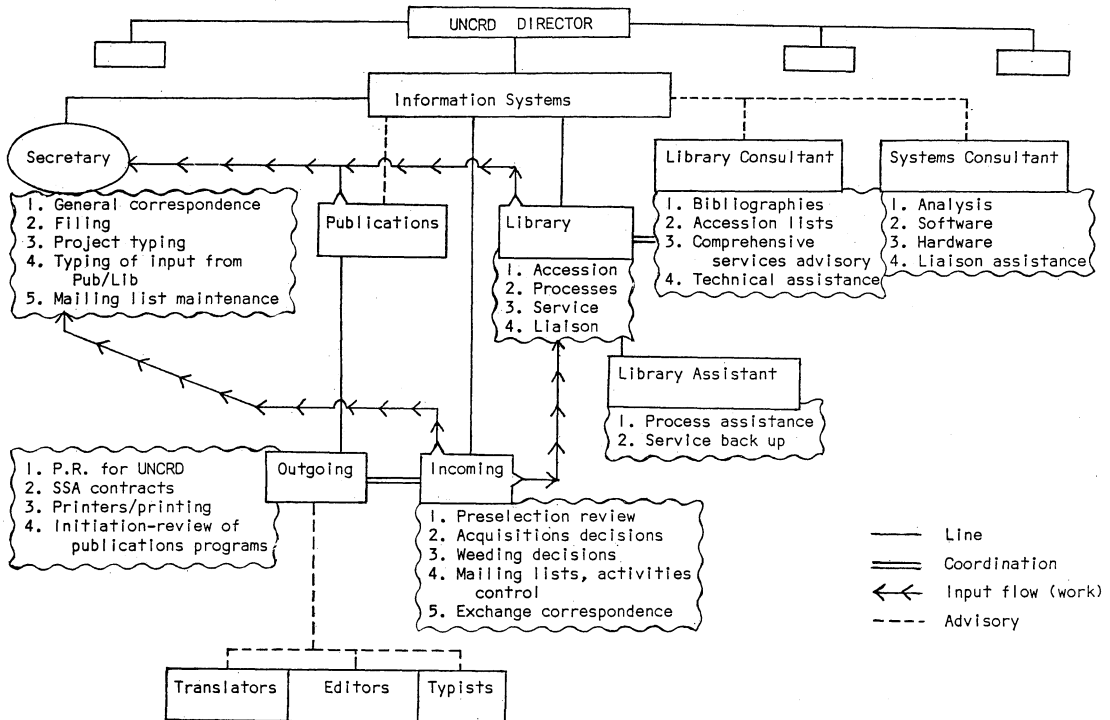
The full-time general service staff consists of one librarian, one library assistant, one assistant translator and one secretary.

The work flow and organization chart for Information Systems is as shown in Table III.

XIII. Towards a Network of Affiliations

The long-range objective of the UNCRD Information Systems is to assist the countries, particularly in the ECAFE region, to improve their efforts in the transfer of information. This involves the interflow of data and resource materials related to development both

Table III



in and between the several countries of each area by establishing a network of relationships with national information centres, or similar focal points, linked together for the effective exchange of information.

The establishment of the network is seen as a multi-phase project. The first-phase of the project will concentrate on establishment of working relationships between development libraries in Japan and will emphasize formal linkages between research and training centres in Tokyo and governmental agencies there which collect and disseminate relevant data. In addition, the network in Japan will seek to provide mutual assistance in the gathering, processing and exchange of development information, including creation of bibliographic tools and the machinery mutually beneficial; and, to design a programme of informational services for the staff and clientele of participating centres.

Whenever the word "exchange" arises, especially in the Asian context, one must always ask, how *mutual* will it be? How will value for value be determined? How will the larger institutes, who have more of the materials and staff to process them, benefit? How can they share more realistically? The enthusiasts for co-operation tend to be the small-scale operations that can benefit most. In short, there has to be a realistic incentive scale fairly arrived at for co-operation and exchange, and a clear-cut programme to carry it off well. The second and subsequent phases of the network project are concerned with the exchange of such co-operational ties beyond Japan, within

the specific areas concerned with development in Asian countries.

Although ambitious and complex, the project represents a pioneering effort to establish practical and useful ties between institutes concerned with a wide range of information of a generally overlapping nature. The role of the Centre will be to serve as the coordinating point in the network as well as the catalyzing agent for its inception and operation. It is not necessary that the Centre should develop any large or central library in relation to the network. The network will become a home for the record of the most relevant and useful planning documents and other related works available in Asia.

- 1) Hermansen, Tormod. Information systems for regional development planning: issues and problems. <Hägerstrand, T. and Kuklinski, A. R. ed. *Information systems for regional development*; a seminar: general papers. Lund, Sweden, the Royal University of Lund, 1971> p. 1.
- 2) See *The United Nations programme in regional development*: an introduction to sub-national planning. New York, UNITAR, 1972.
- 3) See *UN programme of research and training in regional development*: the sub-national approach. New York, UNITAR, 1972.
- 4) See "Agreement between the government of Japan and the United Nations relating to the United Nations Centre for Regional Development in Nagoya, Japan," *United Nations, Treaty series*, no. 2026, June 1971.
- 5) *Ibid.*, article III, 1, (C).