



the lead consulting architect, and others. Focus has been maintained on achieving the key project objectives, ranging from ensuring compliance with relevant life safety regulations, building codes and removal of hazardous materials, accessibility for persons with disabilities and optimization of the use of available interior spaces by providing modernized functional spaces, and maintaining business continuity, as established in the Strategic Capital Review.

The Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific has expeditiously established the governance mechanism for the project, which an administrative arrangement between the project office and our office in New York for the project implementation. In March and April of this year, OIOS carried out their first project audit and their report has assured us that we are making earnest efforts to take the project forward in the right direction and are adequately addressing potential risks.

Both the lead consulting architect and the project coordinator at headquarters were on board in early October; the contract for the independent risk management services is expected to be signed imminently. The project executive has ensured that the risk register is regularly reviewed and prompt mitigation action is planned and implemented, as needed. The focus has also been on developing change management initiatives, which are progressing well. At present, the ESCAP team is preparing a preliminary pilot project for Flexible Workplace; preparations are also underway to commence a space utilization study in line with similar studies undertaken at other duty stations.

