



As in the past, ESCAP has continued its close cooperation with the Host Country to seek assistance and support for the project. During the design phase, the project team continued its established partnership with the Thai Council of Engineers and the Local Technical Advisory Group, on local best practices and on key issues such as local laws, building codes and occupational health and safety standards for construction in Bangkok. I wish to extend our sincere appreciation to the Host Country for continuing to facilitate these fruitful partnerships.

ESCAP has also continued its close collaboration with the Global Asset Management Policy Service at headquarters for support and guidance with respect to risk management, leveraging best practices and lessons learned from other UN capital projects.

Focus has also been maintained on achieving the other key project objectives such as a 16-18 per cent reduction in energy consumption, 20 per cent efficiency gains in space utilization, the removal of hazardous materials from the premises, and delivering a fully accessible and inclusive Secretariat Building in compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

The ESCAP premises have not had a construction project of this scale since the initial construction of the premises, and the project team is aware of the importance of a robust change management process. ESCAP has a Business Readiness Plan to manage all the activities of moving to the swing space and back to the office space after renovation