

annual report on contributions is the steady increase in the number of countries giving, as well as receiving, aid. There are 21 countries represented on the Consultative Committee. Of these, six that lie outside the area of South and Southeast Asia — Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States and Japan — are usually thought of as the "donor" countries. But Burma, Ceylon, India, Indonesia, Pakistan and the Philippines are now also reported as giving assistance to other Asian participants in the Plan.

Among the many aspects of economic development, the Consultative Committee emphasized the special significance of technical assistance. It welcomed the increasing attention being given to regional research and training centres and agreed to place the subject of technical training centres in the region on the agenda of its next annual meeting.

The final decision taken at Tokyo was to accept an invitation from the Government of Malaya to hold the 1961 meeting in Kuala Lumpur. Since by the time the 1961 meeting is held the Colombo Plan will have passed its tenth anniversary, there will be an opportunity at Kuala Lumpur to review the experience of the first ten years of Colombo Plan co-operation.

The Colombo Plan operates through a series of bilateral arrangements between pairs of participating countries, a method that provides for a variety of forms of economic co-operation suited to each member's circumstances. The meetings of the Consultative Committee constitute an invaluable opportunity for exchanging information on development problems, for discussing the effectiveness of different forms of external assistance and for examining the broad picture of economic progress in South and Southeast Asia. The drawing up of the annual report by a series of drafting groups and committees entails much detailed discussion of the experience of each participating country, in the course of which all members gain a greater knowledge and understanding of the common task. There is also much effective consultation outside the formal sessions in the many informal discussions during the annual meeting between delegations. The atmosphere of the meetings is a remarkably harmonious one and there are probably very few international conferences at which the participants display such a wide measure of agreement on the essential tasks before them. The Canadian representative, Mr. Angus MacLean, said, in his main statement during the Tokyo meeting:

We in Canada are convinced that, within the framework of the Colombo Plan, there has been evolved a method of economic co-operation which has resulted in very considerable success and which offers the possibilities of much greater success in the future.