

economic development plans of the country. While several information sectors have grown in various educational and research institutions as well as in government departments, it is felt that an integrated development of a National Science and Technology Information System is very essential. Inter-connecting various independent information centres using the recent developments in Computer Networks based on modern communication Technologies using microwave and satellite linkages would have to be given greater attention. While these developments and capabilities show a great promise for developing comprehensive National Information System for Science and Technology, it is also recognised that there is a need for generating and training appropriate manpower required for the use and applications of these modern technologies. The need for Global and Regional Information System in Science and Technology will have to be justified only on the basis of first developing a National Information System for Science and Technology which can then be linked to these Regional and Global information systems using modern technologies.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

WORLD ENVIRONMENT CENTRE—DUTCH GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON ROLE OF ENVIRONMENT IN DEVELOPING AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN ECONOMIES

As governments rush relief aid to famine-afflicted nations in Africa, the World Environment Centre and Dutch Government are bringing top international officials together to discuss lasting development aid for the region—environmental assistance.

The forum: the Centre's fourth international conference on environment and development. The focus of the *September 25-27, 1985*, conference: Opportunities in Africa and the Middle East for all partners in the development process. This includes government officials, development lenders, multinational business and industry executives, consulting engineers and grassroots groups.

The concept of environment and development, or investment protection through environmental protec-

tion, has been the theme of a series of international conferences sponsored by the non-profit, non-advocacy World Environment Centre.

The fourth conference, "Environment and Development: Opportunities in Africa and the Middle East," will be co-sponsored by the Dutch Government and held in The Hague. The keynote speaker is Dr. Pieter Winsemius, the Netherlands Government Minister of Housing, Physical Planning and the Environment.

For further information contact the conference manager Frederica Capshaw, World Environment Centre, 605, Third Avenue, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10158, USA. (Telephone (212) 986-7200)