

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS COMMITTEE**

CHAIR'S SUMMARY OF THE COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ON 10 FEBRUARY 2006

The Committee's Meeting Program for 2006

1. As Chair, I suggested that the members of the Development Effectiveness Committee (DEC) first agree on overall goals and criteria for the DEC meeting program, and then apply these in deciding on the agenda for the DEC meetings of 2006. There was consensus that an overriding goal was to increase strategic inputs of the DEC to the full Board deliberations of ADB policies and strategies. Furthermore, a section in the DEC's annual report to the Board in October 2005, called *Enhancing the DEC's Contribution*, suggested ways that the committee could select issues for discussion that would be of increased relevance and use to the Board. Of course, there are certain reports that, by their nature, must be discussed by the DEC, such as the annual reports on portfolio performance and evaluation review.

2. Upon reviewing the list of major reports by the Operations Evaluation Department (OED) that were expected to be completed in 2006, DEC members agreed that:

- (i) there would be at most 12 meetings planned for 2006;
- (ii) the committee did not need to discuss the completed *Guidelines for the Preparation of Country Assistance Program Evaluations*, since it considered the guidelines to be a technical tool that was fully within OED's discretion to adopt;
- (iii) neither was there a need for the committee to discuss a coming study by OED on the feasibility of shortening the time between project completion and finalization of the independent project performance evaluation (OED should simply report on this in its 2006 Annual Evaluation Review);
- (iv) while the committee would normally want to discuss an evaluation of an ADB policy, it did not see the need to discuss a coming evaluation of ADB's fisheries policy. However, it should be an important input to corporate level discussion of the Medium Term Strategy II (2006-2008), in which ADB's sector priorities will be considered;
- (v) a discussion of a summary of key issues addressed in the performance evaluation of ADB's largest ever loan, the \$4 billion loan to Republic of Korea following the financial crisis, would be appropriate;
- (vi) the committee should discuss the *Annual Report on the Implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy, 2004: An Assessment of the ADB's Progress and Changes Introduced to Fight Poverty*, which was prepared by the Regional and Sustainable Development Department (RSDD), since this amounted to an evaluation of implementation of ADB's long-term strategy; and
- (vii) the committee should take up an annual report on actions taken (or not taken) on DEC recommendations and on recommendations in OED reports as a separate subject at a meeting, given its critical importance to the institutional feedback process.

3. These decisions will be factored into a draft DEC Meeting Program for 2006 to be circulated by the committee's executive secretary for final approval by the committee, after which it will be submitted to the Chair of the Board of Directors.

4. In discussing its work program for the year, DEC members entered into a broader discussion on how the committee could become more efficient and effective in its contribution to the work of the Board. There was a common view that both OED and the DEC needed to align their agenda more closely, proactively, and directly to the current corporate agenda and provide inputs based on lessons from evaluations in a more timely way. The committee also needed to increase its interaction with other members of the Board. One way this could be done would be for the DEC Chair to recap the committee's pertinent recommendations at the inception of a full Board discussion of a country or sector program, or a corporate policy or strategy. Other ways needed to be found for DEC to bring important issues of development effectiveness to the attention of the full Board. If the DEC could not demonstrate an impact on Board thinking and consideration, its value as a Board committee was questionable. As far as OED's work program, some DEC members wondered if an increased relevance to the corporate agenda could be achieved through fewer but larger studies, based on more extensive stakeholder participation and better timeliness.

Other Business

5. Finally, DEC members agreed that:

- (i) starting with the current meeting, the Chair's Summary of Discussion, which is publicly disclosed, would be the single record of the committee's deliberations; and
- (ii) the time was right to review the committee's terms of reference for possible revisions that might enable the committee to improve in efficiency and effectiveness.

Agus Haryanto

Chair
Development Effectiveness Committee

24 February 2006