

## IV. CLOSING REMARKS

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Mr. Jan Van Heeswijk, Director General of the Regional and Sustainable Development Department, ADB, gave his profound appreciation to the 19 participating DMCs and the experts, observers, and others who benefited from the workshop. He also gave special thanks to Microsoft and IBM corporations as ADB's partners in sponsoring the workshop.

Mr. Heeswijk commented that e-learning has a great potential in national development among the DMCs. He congratulated the speakers and presenters who have laid out the pieces needed in building an e-learning framework. He encouraged participants to apply what they have learned in the workshop to chart policies, strategies, and incentives to support e-learning systems in their own countries. He also reminded participants not to forget the poor, women, ethnic minorities, and the rural masses as they develop e-learning programs.

Mr. Heeswijk said that workshop resources such as CD-ROMs, video presentations, and proceedings would be available to participants. The use of these materials will determine the effectiveness of the workshop and its impact on e-learning in each country. He promised that ADB would do its best to provide materials so that participants can successfully apply their knowledge in the succeeding years. He wished everyone success in considering the best approach for application of e-learning projects and activities. Finally, he congratulated everyone for completing the workshop and qualifying to receive their certificate of completion.

Mr. Raymond Renfro, Director for Capacity Building and Training, ADBI, in his closing remarks reminded participants that the workshop materials would provide valuable exposure to enhance e-learning. Many countries are at the forefront in e-learning, but not all are making significant impacts. The demand and capacity to enhance education are important factors in building e-learning as was shown in the West Bengal case study. Country programs should start small and simple and partners should be invited to help them expand. He cited the UNESCO toolkits as a valuable guide in building action plans and project concept papers.

Mr. Renfro said that the next steps are critical in developing e-learning programs. He advised participants to implement action plans in their home country. He also assured them that materials would be provided through interactive compact discs and CD-ROM as well as information materials on the Internet. Finally, he thanked partner organizations in making this workshop a success. He also commended the workshop coordinators for the excellent overall quality of the workshop.

Some resource persons and participants were then invited to make some general comments about the workshop.

Mr. William Horton (consultant) thanked the participants and the speakers for coming to the workshop. He said he was overwhelmed with the learning that took place. In the course of the workshop, he realized one important lesson—knowing how one can put together technology and make it work in a country is more important than the technology itself.

Mr. Braim (IBM) thanked the workshop coordinators, especially Mr. Lee, with whom they have continued to work on many partner projects. He was glad that IBM and other private groups were able to impart information to the developing countries that would hopefully accelerate e-learning in those countries.

Mr. Yoshimura (IBM) observed that the workshop outputs were excellent. He said that developing countries can eventually catch up with other countries through e-learning and that he expects the participating countries to be among the leaders.

Mr. Gupta, the participant from India, said this was the first time he had seen an international workshop where international governments, banks, and organizations have come together for a single cause. In the course of the workshop, he observed that e-learning should be presented with good instructional media design in order to be effective. He mentioned that change management was an issue in establishing a structure for e-learning. Global systems and competition have started to emerge and the participating countries must be part of this trend in the years to come.

Ms. Zhang, a participant from the PRC, first thanked all the participants and speakers for sharing information and knowledge. She noted that the workshop provided plenty of new ideas and strategies that she can apply to her home country.

Participants expressed their appreciation to ADB, ADBI, Microsoft, IBM, and the governments of Australia and Republic of Korea for organizing the workshop. Mr. Jeoung-Keun Lee and Mr. William Loxley awarded certificates of completion to all participants.