

## **MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO THE 2008 ANNUAL EVALUATION REVIEW: LESSONS FROM A DECADE OF ADB COUNTRY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM EVALUATIONS**

On 20 October 2008, the Officer-in-Charge, Operations Evaluation Department, received the following response from the Managing Director General on behalf of Management:

1. We note that this synthesis report does not include specific recommendations to which Management response is sought, being more of a compilation of findings of previous studies, whose recommendations have already been responded to in due time. We would nevertheless like to offer a few comments.
2. We appreciate the synthesis of evaluation results presented in the Annual Evaluation Review, and are pleased to note that evaluation results point to an improving trend in project and program performance, and a success rate of country assistance programs in line with other multilateral development banks. This should not be a reason for complacency, and Management efforts to improve the impact of ADB operations will continue, drawing among other sources from the outcome of OED's evaluations.
3. We agree in particular that Country Assistance Program Evaluations (CAPEs) have been useful for operations planning. They have influenced preparation of subsequent Country Partnership Strategies (CPSs), provided an input for the 2007 revision of the CPS guidelines, and informed sector selectivity during preparation of Strategy 2020 by highlighting sectors where ADB was likely to be more effective.
4. We agree the measures proposed in the report for OED action to strengthen CAPE. In particular, an alternative application of CAPE and CAPE Update seems reasonable, given the time lag needed for the impact of a country program to produce tangible results.
5. Finally, OED conducted 41 evaluation studies in 2007 and we note a significant increase in the number of OED recommendations compared to last year. Should this trend continue, it will be increasingly resource intensive to track and implement all these recommendations. Given the limited resource envelope, ensuring an appropriate level of recommendations in terms of numbers and detail is critical for Management to facilitate adequate response and follow-up.