

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS COMMITTEE**

#### **CHAIRPERSON'S SUMMARY OF THE COMMITTEE'S DISCUSSION ON 8 MARCH 2005 OF THE SPECIAL EVALUATION STUDY OF SELECTED ADB INTERVENTIONS ON NUTRITION AND FOOD FORTIFICATION**

1. The Development Effectiveness Committee (DEC) generally endorsed the key conclusions and recommendations of the special evaluation study. DEC members considered that ADB had played an important role in promoting the development of good nutrition and food fortification through its regional technical assistance. The DEC expected ADB to take the key recommendations of the study into account in (i) further work in the health sector; (ii) the design of further food fortification interventions; and, more generally, (iii) efforts to strengthen the effectiveness of ADB's technical assistance (TA).
2. Specifically, the DEC:
  - (i) expected the study to be an important input to an update of ADB's existing policy for the health sector and, more significantly, to a new integrated health, nutrition and population strategy for ADB that was being planned to be formulated in 2006;
  - (ii) placed priority on the recommendation that in designing future food fortification interventions, ADB should take account of the costs to government of making the benefits sustainable, including the costs for regulation, enforcement, quality assurance, and training of personnel; and
  - (iii) encouraged ADB, in its review of TA effectiveness in general, to further consider the hybrid TA modality suggested in the study, which would allow small investment components, e.g. for pilot projects, instead of limiting use of TA funds to employment of consultants and workshops. The goal of such a modality would be to enhance TA effectiveness and ensure sustainable impact.
3. With regard to the effectiveness of ADB's TA in general, several DEC members also took the opportunity to emphasize that:
  - (i) ADB's TA products had been unique among multilateral development banks and should be considered one of ADB's strengths;
  - (ii) the evaluation of TA must place considerable weight on whether the TA has made an impact on national policy and policymakers; and
  - (iii) ADB should give further thought to whether or when TA carried out at a regional level might be preferred to that at a national level. The hope of a "trickling down" of consensus building at a regional level to national decision makers was not good enough.

4. The DEC noted that Management, in its response, had also endorsed the recommendations of OED's study and had acknowledged that current processing and implementation of nutrition-related projects were taking into consideration the conclusions and recommendations. The DEC members strongly agreed with the OED recommendation that ADB should continue playing the role of a catalyst in nutrition development efforts in the region.

5. The DEC appreciated the extensive dissemination plans that OED had in mind for the study in order to maximize the opportunities to benefit from its lessons in both the public and private sectors.

Agus Haryanto  
Chairperson  
Development Effectiveness Committee

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