



Capacity Development for Monitoring and Evaluation

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TA Amount:	\$500,000
Source of Finance:	Regional Cooperation and Poverty Reduction Fund, provided by the Government of the People's Republic of China
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Project Duration:	2 years
Commencement and Completion Dates:	October 2007-2009
Project Manager:	J. Scott Bayley
Department:	Operations Evaluation Department
Regional Cooperation Initiative Pillar:	Development of regional public goods in monitoring and evaluation

Project Overview

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) places a premium on results and is committed to strengthening the capacity of its [developing member countries](#) (DMCs) to manage for that. Strong monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems contribute to poverty reduction. They also improve the quality of ADB's own M&E, both in the form of self-evaluation by operational departments of development interventions, and independent evaluation of these by the [Operations Evaluation Department](#) (OED).

For these reasons, OED has backed [evaluation capacity development](#) (ECD) since 1990 to raise awareness of the critical role that M&E can play in promoting the transparency, accountability, results orientation, and effectiveness of management systems. Principally at the national and sectoral levels, its interventions so far have (i) stimulated thinking on the function of M&E in good governance and public sector reform; (ii) explored the complementarities between M&E, results-based management, and internal auditing; (iii) identified strategies and resources for building demand for and supply of M&E; and (iv) encouraged and supported the creation of country and regional networks to facilitate follow-up actions.

However, the changing development context in Asia and the Pacific and the advent of learning organizations and knowledge-based economies have fed stocktaking exercises in OED, which has placed a stronger accent on ECD. This decision is also congruent with items on the international development agenda, such as the [Millennium Development Goals](#) and ADB's support for these. From experience with national and sectoral M&E systems, it is meaningful to strengthen ECD at the regional level in the framework of ADB's various regional initiatives.

The impact of the [technical assistance](#) (TA) is expected to be higher efficiency and effectiveness in public sector service provision, leading to poverty reduction. In the evaluation agencies targeted, the outcome is intended to be improved ranges of skills, resources, systems, and attitudes for performance of results-based M&E of country partnership strategies, sector strategies, policies, programs, and projects in the participating DMCs, viz., [Cambodia](#), [Lao People's Democratic Republic](#) (Lao PDR), and [Viet Nam](#). Three outputs will accomplish the outcome of the TA: (i) proficiency in M&E will be raised, (ii) research and special studies on ECD will be conducted, and (iii) knowledge sharing and learning for M&E will be boosted.

Progress to Date

The actual work plan and completed activities for period August 2008 are as shown below:

A. Project Actions and Activities Completed for Report Period

Month	Dates	Activities
August	1–30 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the country case studies and survey results • Review discussions with country team members • Preparation of preliminary findings and identification of remedial actions required for each case study • Discussions on the participation of officials from other GMS DMCs, China, and CAREC countries to join the October ToT workshop in Vietnam • Preliminary conceptual and design work on the M&E CoP website with ADB, Manila • Preparation of materials for M&E CoP Website • Preparation work on identifying and establishing M&E networks with regional and international M&E entities. • Ongoing work on developing and designing the customized M&E course for senior policy level officials from the GMS DMCs
	8-12 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country visit to Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam by Project Team Leader to meet with the GMS Coordinators and country team members on the following agenda: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Review of terms of reference and deliverables of ADBTA 6410 project b. Review of Action Plan for 2008-2009 c. Review of country case study and matters/issues arising d. Discussion on Second In-Country ToT Training workshop/course in Vietnam: 20-25 Oct., 2008 e. Review of preparations for the proposed in-country down-line M&E training by the country trainers f. Review of other output deliverables under the ADBTA 6410 g. Other matters • Site visit to venue of 2nd ToT workshop in Ha Long Bay, Vietnam: 20-24 Oct., 2008 • Vietnam expressed preference to change one of its ToT participants with a more senior official. The Vietnam GMS Coordinator will submit an official request to team leader on this as soon as possible. • Review and finalization of logistics arrangements for 2nd ToT Workshop in Ha Long Bay • Preliminary logistics arrangements with VN team members for the 2nd ToT workshop in Ha Long Bay, Vietnam • Preparation of ToT notes for 2nd ToT workshop

B. Planned Activities for the Coming Period: September–October 2008

September	1–30 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review & finalization of the country case studies and survey results for use in the 2nd ToT workshop in October • Preparation of ToT notes for 2nd ToT workshop • Finalization of adjustments to the ToT training participant from
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		<p>Vietnam as per request from GMS Coordinator from Vietnam;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing work on developing and designing the customized M&E course for senior policy level officials from the GMS DMCs • Continued work on identifying and establishing networks and linkages with regional and international M&E network/s;
October	20–24 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalization of the workshop program, materials, and other logistics arrangements for the ToT workshop from 20-24 October, 2008 in Vietnam; • The workshop will be held in Ha Long Bay away from Hanoi to ensure that the Vietnamese participants can focus on the workshop and also to enable night sessions for the ToT workshop. • Finalization of the arrangements for the M&E course for senior level M&E officials from GMS DMCs; • Finalise the M&E case study and report and prepare indicative strategy paper in consultation with GMS country representatives and ADB.

General Comments

The planned activities for the period have been successfully carried out. These include the following:

- i. Preparations for the 2nd ToT workshop in Ha Long Bay, Vietnam from 20-24 October, 2008;
- ii. Review of the draft country case studies and discussions with the team members. The findings of the case study will be used to inform:
 - The second M&E workshop in Vietnam from 20-24 October, 2008;
 - The identification and development of a ECD strategy for the GMS DMCs;
 - The identification and development of strategies for the ECD initiative by ADB.
- iii. Initial conceptual and design work on the M&E CoP website by ADB, Manila;
- iv. Preliminary discussions on potential networking with other evaluation networks regionally and internationally

Actions Taken in Response to the Recommendations of the Previous Monthly Progress Note

There were no specific recommendations arising out of the earlier progress report. However, the planned actions and deliverables for the project have been pursued and completed as per plan with the exception of the M&E training for the senior policy officials from the GMS DMC countries. As mentioned earlier in the progress report, a special tailor-made course is being identified and is expected to be held in early 2009 for all six policy level M&E officials from the three GMS DMCs.