

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
Approval Date:	3 September 2007
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
September	1–30 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the country case studies • 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 DMC countries, China, and CAREC countries to join the October ToT workshop in Vietnam
	8-13 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team leader visits each GMS DMCs (Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam) to meet with the GMS national coordinators and discuss progress with the project, actions taken, as well as other course related matters • Meeting with national consultants and country team members in each country to review progress with the country case study as well as the course work. • Review and make adjustments to the Course work and participants where needed after discussion with the GMS national coordinators • Two participants were changed for Vietnam and Cambodia. For Vietnam, one of the earlier five participants was replaced by a more senior official from MPI upon the request of the GMS national coordinator. • For Cambodia, the GMS national coordinator and national consultant managed to find an additional suitable participant to make up the fifth team member. • Review of the project's upcoming plans for Course # 2 in Vietnam • Team leader and national consultant from Vietnam (also the main organizer for the Course #2 in Ha Long) visited Ha Long Bay to select and arrange for suitable hotel and course related logistics. • Arrangements were also finalized with suitable transport providers for the airport pickup and transfers for the course participants. • Review of logistics in Vietnam-Ha Long Bay and finalization of course venue and related logistics arrangements with hotel and other service providers
	1–30 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content design development 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
October	1-19 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparations of materials for Course 2 from 20-25 October, 2008. • Finalization of all logistics arrangements for Course #2 • Finalization and signing of contract between Team Leader and

	20-25 October	<p>Hotel in Ha Long where the course will be held.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final preparations by Vietnam national consultant and team leader on course 2 details and preparations. • Course # 2 of the M&E Capacity-building training series was held at Pearl Hotel, Ha Long Bay, Vietnam from 20-24 October, 2008. • It was jointly organized by the team leader as well as the Vietnamese national consultant, with the assistance of another local Vietnamese M&E/MfDR trainer; • The course was attended by 18 trainees from Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. The trainees were made up of five public sector M&E officials and one national consultant from each country. • One MfDR and M&E official from the Quang Tri Province was also invited to join the course to provide local experiences as well as to assist with the course organization and logistics. • The course was held over 5 days from 20-24 Oct. and its main objective was to reinforce the M&E learning that took place during Course 1 held in Kuala Lumpur in April 2008. • The course was also attended by Scott Bayley, the project manager, and Iris De Guzman both from ADB. • The course proved to be effective with the trainees being able to get a better grasp of the M&E topics that they would use for teaching M&E in their own countries. • The M&E CoP website was launched, with the TA participants forming the initial core members of the site. • Course participants were given an action plan to be completed between October 2008 and April 2009 when the third course would be held in Cambodia (in either Phnom Penh or Seam Reap). • Besides having to complete the ongoing country case study by the end of November, 2008, the course participants were also required to carry out an assignment in applying the concepts and tools learnt towards a selected program in their country. This assignment would be due by February, 2009 and will be used as training material for Course 3.
November	1-30 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country course participants have been engaged with reviewing and strengthening their respective case studies. • All country case studies have to be submitted to the team leader by end of November, 2009. • Course participants are also working on identifying an appropriate program and applying the MfDR and M&E concepts and tools learnt in the earlier courses, towards the selected program. • The team leader is working on the design and contents of the customized course for policy level officials from the three countries. The course is expected to be held in the first quarter of 2009. • National consultants have also been asked to review the country case study and details to ensure that all necessary information required for the ECD strengthening component of the project has been obtained. • A tentative working session on analysing the country case studies as well as drawing up relevant conclusions for informing the ECD

		and relevant policies is being planned. This working session is being planned for January and to be held in Manila.
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B. Planned Activities for the Coming Period: September–October 2008

December		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission of the country case studies; • Review and initial analysis of the country case studies; • Preparation of program assignments by the course participants; • Initial work on translation of training materials into the local language by national consultants; • Preparatory actions on setting up and strengthening of networks, including communication and networking involving the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. National evaluation associations. ii. Focus networks on MfDR, Results-Based Management (RBM), and M&E aspects. iii. Regional and international M&E bodies (such as IOCE, IDEAS). • Strengthening the M&E CoP in terms of contents and usage. • Review and approval of the proposed policy level customized workshop for senior policy level officials from the GMS DMCs.
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General Comments

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

- i. Preparations and completion of the 2nd ToT workshop in Ha Long Bay, Vietnam from 20-24 October, 2008;
- ii. Review and finalization of the country case studies by the end of November, '08
- iii. The findings of the case study will be used to inform:
 - M&E capacity development for the GMS DMCs;
 - Identification and development of a ECD strategy for the GMS DMCs;
 - Identification and development of strategies for the ECD initiative by ADB.
- iv. Strengthening of the M&E CoP website by ADB, Manila;
- v. 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

- The single most important action arising out of the previous progress report is the successful completion of Course 2 of the M&E capacity building initiative under this program.
- Another significant achievement for the period was the review and completion of the country case studies on M&E – which is now expected to be reviewed and relevant strategies for M&E capacity building and M&E policies to be identified and reviewed for follow-up actions.
- All of 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 policy level 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.