

**Minutes of the 19th Meeting Partnership and Harmonization TWG
Held on 24 October 2011, at CDC**



H.E. Chhieng Yanara, Minister attached to the Prime Minister, Secretary General CRDB/CDC and Chairman of the Partnership and Harmonization TWG, welcomed all participants to the meeting. In his opening remarks, he addressed the agenda by emphasizing the main objectives of the meeting as to review the central partnership issues between the RGC and DPs through discussing Cambodia's policy priorities and issues related to development partnership, including the preparatory works prior to the 4th High Level Forum later this year, and consulting on improving sector-based partnership through JMI frameworks and TWG Network mechanisms. He also mentioned that the RGC, under support of CRDB/CDC, will begin to revise the aid management policy framework based on the HLF-4 outcomes in early 2012 to promote development partnership mechanisms in Cambodia.

The agenda items of the meeting were:

- i. Discussion on the draft 2011 Development Effectiveness Report
- ii. Identifying key issues and priorities of Cambodia to be raised in the Busan HLF4 and future aid management priorities
- iii. Review of JMI progress reports
- iv. Other Business

[All presentations are available on www.cdc-crdb.gov.kh]

The draft 2011 Development Effectiveness Report (2011 DER)

Mr. Ros Salin, Director of the Aid Coordination Policy Department of CDC/CRDB, provided a brief presentation on the overview of the draft 2011 DER by informing the main changes and new focus in both structures and analytical aspects of the report through each chapter. The 2011 DER comprised of five chapters that addressed the aspects beyond the aid effectiveness by more focusing on the linkages of aid effectiveness to development results, assessing new issues and opportunities of development partnerships, addressing trends of development cooperation management in Cambodia, and providing future policy recommendation for better development effectiveness.

In addition, **the chair** emphasised that the main objectives of 2011 DER is to serve as a combined global and national evidenced-based document to broadly evaluate the progress, challenges of aid effectiveness work in Cambodia and to set out priorities to move forward aid effectiveness and development effectiveness in the Cambodian context. It would be an outcome document to inform the Busan HLF-4 in November 2011 and other policy dialogues. The report also indicated that the alignment of current trends of ODA disbursements with national priorities and aid predictability were positive.

Consolidated DP comments on the 2011 DER were raised through UNDP representative and were summarized as follows:

- In accelerating the progress of planning, resource and monitoring systems stated in Chapter IV, the enhancement of planning-based capacity of line

ministries/agencies should be further prioritized and consistent with new NSDP development. The progress of Standard Operating Procedure manuals development should be further addressed. In this case, specific recommendations of the previous 2010 study on 'National Structures and Systems for Aid Implementation in Cambodia' and a brief result of Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Community Practice on Managing for Development Result should be important evidence which need to be addressed. For chapter III, the report should discuss the integration of national budget and ODA, and trends of ODA allocations for improving alignment and aid predictability.

- The report should further address linkages between NSDP Mid-Term Review process and TWG priorities.
- It would important to reflect on how the differences of future effective development cooperation at central and sub-national levels can be addressed.
- In response to gaps between high macro-level result (through JMIs) and weak result-oriented at project level addressed in the DER, the quality of project/program M&E systems and linkages between these systems and national development result should be analyzed and discussed in the TWG network meetings facilitated by P&H-TWG.
- Joint capacity assessments are a welcome proposal; the regional dialogues on managing of climate change finances and the institutional capacity assessment for climate change response are an opportunity to build on-going efforts related to climate change.
- The report usefully reflects future directions for post-Busan steps including the preparation of new policy on development cooperation management in 2012.

Comments by **Mr. Fan Qimiao**, Country Director, World Bank: the report should point out a broader development outcome context, significantly the linkage between development partnership and development results reflected in DER's chapter III, by highlighting key progress made by the RGC in terms of leadership and partnership; for example, the progress of alignment and the on-going process of integration between planning, budgeting and ODA management, effectiveness dialogues between RGC, DPs, private sector and CSOs, and using of JMIs to shift development effectiveness agenda towards more result-based. A concise summary is necessary to pull these themes together.

Comments by CCC representative: CCC appreciated the report and observed that it would be useful to consider how to translate aid-related activities and results in context of the social development and positive change in people lives.

Comments by SIDA representatives: It would be important to build an integrated JMI and NSDP-MTR framework to contribute to high-level results and in promoting use of country systems.

In response to comments raised, **the Chair** verified that much effort has been made by the RGC to move aid effectiveness towards development effectiveness agenda. The formulation of JMIs reflecting all levels of inputs, outputs and result-focus has been an empirical evidence for this moving process. The RGC's leadership and partnership in terms of aid coordination has been much improved. The intention of transforming from

CDCF to CDF was clearly identified through the RS-Phase II to integrate between private and public sectors; however, the challenge regarding multi-stakeholder partnership arrangements would be occurred. The work of Task Force on integration between planning, budgeting and ODA management is in progress as the draft Situation Analysis is being finalized. A meeting of the TWG Network, likely end-January 2012, will be an opportunity to discuss these issues as well as post-Busan priorities.

The chair also acknowledged all comments provided by DPs on the draft report and indicated that relative comments would be incorporated in the report. The deadline for additional comments would be on 28th October 2011.

Key policy issues and priorities of Cambodia to be raised in the Busan HLF4 and future aid management priorities

The chair provided the meeting a short presentation on key policy issues and priorities in promoting future direction of development effectiveness in Cambodia. Three main sets of policy issues would be prioritized for development effectiveness agenda in the year 2012 and beyond:

1. Recognizing of the continued efforts to strengthen relevant aid effectiveness agenda.
2. The intention to improve the quality partnership through reviewing the existing result-focused arrangements.
3. Multi-stakeholder partnership – more focusing on new issues and opportunities of development partnership – private sector and other non-state actors – in contributing to development effectiveness agenda particularly in the areas of climate change and south-south cooperation.

Additional comments made by DP representatives during the meeting were as following:

- CIDA representative asked for clarification on the timeframe and process of reviewing of the dialogue structure.
- Mr. Fan Qimiao, observed that the continued use of existing dialogue mechanisms while a new structure is set up. Mutual accountability principle should be balanced for strengthening dialogue. Capacity development in public financial management and procurement systems should be further strengthened in order to promote use of country systems, particularly effective use of PBAs. The progress of the integration between planning, budgeting and aid management should further addressed. Effective monitoring of policy implementations should be further discussed. The linkage of JMIs and national development outcomes should be further identified.
- MEDICAM representative commented that democratic dialogues between the RGC and CSOs should be further focused to discuss on policy implementation and social need issues; for example, JMI and M&E framework implementations, country system capacity development, and the roles of CSOs in promoting good governance and accountability.

In response these comments, **the Chair** stated that the existing dialogue arrangements would be employed to maximum use while new partnering and JMI arrangements were being developed. He also added that the reviewing the existing dialogue structure would be a complicated exercise which would need concerted and joint efforts from all stakeholders during 2012 to identify a good arrangement which highlights all aspects of the development effectiveness agenda.

JMI progress reports

Mr. Chou Heng, Policy Advisor to CRDB/CDC, made a presentation on consolidation of TWG progress reports by underlining progress and challenges of JMI implementation of each main sector. JMI progress reports were submitted by fourteen TWGs for consolidation. Overall progress has been variable for JMIs in social, economic, infrastructure and governance and cross sectors.

Additional comments made by DPs on the JMI progress reports were as following:

- SIDA representative asked for clarification on excluded JMI reports for some main sectors like PAR, AW and ACU
- DANIDA representative addressed the JMI issues in LJR sector, which would be required policy guidance from sector senior management.
- DP representative for PPR-TWG raised that a wide range of roles and responsibilities of actors in PPR-TWG JMI frameworks would be more discussed in the TWG dialogue.
- Germany representative added that additional guidance support from CRDB/CDC should be needed for next-step JMI framework preparations. The Chair clarified that TWGs should develop their own results frameworks and derive JMIs from that. The TWG Network meeting in January 2012 will be an opportunity to clarify a common understanding for all TWGs.
- World Bank added that JMI outcome and intermediate indicators should be more clearly defined by TWGs and DPs to make the reports more result-based. Consultation and coordination especially mutual accountability should be further strengthened for cross-sector TWGs to accelerate JMI processes. It would be important that next CDCF should be immediately organized to endorse the new JMI frameworks.
- ADB representative also suggested that the JMI format, guideline and assessment process should be incorporated in the next TWG Network Retreat agenda.

In response, the Chair mentioned that the issues of late submission the reports from PAR and AW-TWGs and ACU should be mainly caused by coordination between TWGs and Lead DP facilitators. Guidance support by CRDB/CDC has been provided to some TWGs on continued new JMI framework preparation. However, JMI identification would be mainly responsible by sector ministries/TWGs and DPs. The Chair, in addition, added that the quality of TWGs would be mainly based on the quality of partnership. The upcoming TWG Network Retreat would serve as a forum for TWGs and DPs to discuss more on TWG ownership, coordination and partnership dialogue issues significantly on JMI issues.

Other Business

Mr. Fan Qimiao made a brief presentation on the result of DP internal workshop on enhancing policy dialogue held on 19th September 2011 by highlighting the main objectives of the workshop as to discuss on how to improve the quality of dialogue between the RGC and DPs and coordination among DP themselves. The workshop concluded that: i). the RGC ownership and mutual accountability principles need to be more enhanced and balanced to improve the quality of existing RGC-DP dialogues; ii). Well-defined dialogue structures would be needed; iii). The quality of TWG mechanisms

needs to be more strengthened through improving the quality of result-based JMIs and partnership; iv). GDCC and CDCF should be combined these mechanisms into one annual event supplemented by a sub-informal event in between, and informal discussions should be held prior high-level dialogues like CDCF or CDF. Therefore, the full outcome of the workshop would be shared with P&HTWG members quit soon.

The Chair agreed that qualitative aspects of partnering were paramount for effective results. A willingness to improve information sharing, communication and joint learning was most important. CRDB wil reflect on the full report of the DP meeting once it is received but the initiative of the DPs was most welcome as a contribution to improved partnership dialogue.

Representative from CCC also informed the meeting that a multi-stakeholder discussion would be hosted by CSO on 27 October to discuss on how the RGC, DP significantly CSO in providing key messages for the HLF-4 outcome documents. The Chair confirmed that CRDB/CDC will participate.

The meeting was closed at 5.15 pm. In his closing renmarks, the Chair emphasised the need to work collaboratively, especially after Busan, to implement priority actions for more effective development.

Prepared by Policy Department, secretariat of P&H TWG