

Co-chairs' Summary
The 12th ODA Evaluation Workshop in Kuala Lumpur on Dec. 2-3, 2014
Co-hosted by
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan
and
Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department, Malaysia

The 12th ODA Evaluation Workshop was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on December 2 and 3, 2014, and was jointly hosted by the Government of Japan and the Government of Malaysia.

1. Opening Session

Opening and welcoming remarks were delivered respectively by representatives of the two co-hosts: Mr. Kingo Toyoda, Deputy Director-General of the International Cooperation Bureau at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Japan, and YBhg. Dato' Nik Azman Nik Abdul Majid, Deputy Director-General of the Economic Planning Unit (EPU), Malaysia. This workshop was co-chaired by Mr. Hiroyuki Kubota, Senior Deputy Director of the ODA Evaluation Division at MOFA and Mr. Mohamad Razif Abd Mubin, Deputy Director of the Environment and Natural Resources Section at EPU. Mr. Kubota explained the background to this workshop, and Mr. Mohamad Razif outlined the program for the two days of sessions.

To open the workshop, Mr. Keiichi Muraoka, Director General of the Evaluation Department at the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), made a presentation describing its project evaluation.

2. Session 1: Impact of Evaluation on Effectiveness of Bilateral Development Assistance

In this session, the impact of the evaluation on the effectiveness of bilateral development assistance was discussed. Two presentations were made: the first by Mr. Subrat Kumar Pradhan, Deputy Director of the Department of Economic Affairs at the Ministry of Finance, India, and the second by Mr. Mosese Ravasakula, Senior Economic Planning Officer, Overseas Development Assistance Unit at the Ministry of Finance, Fiji. Mr. Romeo B. Santos, Professor at the University of the Philippines, and Chair of Pilipinas Development Evaluators Association and Interim Vice President of the Asia Pacific Evaluation Association (APEA), moderated the discussion that followed the presentations.

The discussion by participants focused on the following major themes and points highlighted by the two presenters:

- 1) Mutual accountability of donors and recipient countries
- 2) The impact of evaluation on making development programs more effective
- 3) Emerging needs for evaluation in recipient countries and the purpose of evaluation for recipient countries
- 4) Application of emerging evaluation methodologies in determining the effectiveness of official development assistance (ODA) projects

3. Session 2: Monitoring and Evaluation of Development Assistance in Regional Cooperation

In Session 2, two presentations were made on efforts and challenges for enhancing monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of development assistance in regional cooperation: the first was by Mr. Narayan Dhakal, Under Secretary of the International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division at the Ministry of Finance, Nepal, and the second was by Ms. Violeta Corpus, Assistant Director of Monitoring and Evaluation Staff, National Economic and

Development Authority, the Philippines.

Mr. Champak Pokharel, the Board Member and Former Chairperson of the Nepal Evaluation Society, moderated the discussion after the presentations.

The two presentations evoked a lot of interest and many questions were asked. Some of the main issues raised and key suggestions made were:

- 1) Expansion in the scope of development assistance beyond ODA
- 2) Diversifying donors and need for synchronizing the objectives of development assistance with the goals of recipient countries
- 3) Each country being the ultimate implementer of evaluation on regional development cooperation
- 4) Lack of funding arrangement for evaluation and weak desire for independent evaluation in general
- 5) Needed capacity building in both M&E

4. Session 3: The Role of APEA and its Future Possibilities

In Session 3, the participants discussed the role and future possibilities of the APEA as the first evaluation network in the Asia Pacific region. The presenters were two of the leading members of the APEA: Prof. Ryokichi Hirono, Interim President of APEA and Senior Advisor of the Japan Evaluation Society and Mr. Arunaselam Rasappan, Interim Secretary of APEA, and Board Member of the Malaysian Evaluation Society. Prof. Hirono outlined the history of the APEA, its recent activities, and challenges facing the APEA as well as collaboration with various partners. Following the presentation, Mr. Rasappan shared his perspective on the history of the Malaysia Evaluation Society as well as its activities and challenges. Mr. Benedictus Dwiagus Stepantoro, President of the Indonesian Development Evaluation Community and Board Member of APEA, moderated the discussion that followed the presentations.

Participants made various comments on points that included:

- 1) Important pressure from experts of evaluation societies on governments for the effectiveness of policies and institutional practices
- 2) Support from APEA for countries where national evaluation societies do not exist
- 3) Needed push for evaluation exercises even in places where the demand for evaluation seems to be at a relatively low level
- 4) Organizational processes regarding membership of APEA
- 5) Cross-cutting issues in evaluation

5. Session 4: New Trends in Evaluation

In this session, the emerging agenda and challenges for evaluation were discussed. Mr. James George, Assistant Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme, opened the session by introducing the recent changes in approaches to M&E with the emergence of information and communication technologies. Ms. Suzanne Polak, Regional Learning, Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor of the Regional Development Mission for Asia in Thailand, at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), presented new trends in M&E at USAID. Mr. Pokharel moderated the questions that followed the three presentations.

Questions and comments were made by participants mainly on the following points:

- 1) Participation from local communities in designing programs and evaluation
- 2) Inter-ministry collaboration, coordination, ownership, and standardization in evaluation
- 3) Involvement of governments in independent evaluation
- 4) Adding new language in contracts that allows changes in bureaucracy

- 5) Knowledge management system for sharing and learning
- 6) Evidence-based results and values in evaluation

7. Closing Session

The two co-chairs concluded the Workshop by sharing a draft of the co-chairs' summary and confirming that the participating governments, international organizations, and evaluation societies will continue their dialogue with the aim of enhancing the quality of evaluation in each country and in the region as a whole. They also thanked all participants for their lively and stimulating presentations and discussions.

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