

WGE and EOC Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building

REPORT BACK FROM 1ST JULY 2008

14th Annual Meeting of The GMS Working Group on Environment

Dawood Ghaznavi

Chief Operating Officer, Core Environment Program
Environment Operations Center

2nd July 2008
Luang Prabang, Lao PDR



WGE Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building

The concepts proposed at the May Brainstorming Workshop have capacity building elements integrated into their actual implementation (learning by doing).

This includes;

- Line agency staff training in use of advanced tools for policy and strategic analysis (Material Flow Analysis, Resource Use Efficiency, Multi Criteria Analysis)
- Promotion of cross-sectoral integration for policy and strategy coordination with transport, hydropower, tourism and ANR sectors.

Other Institutional Strengthening measures include;

- Building capacity for EPA and application of environmental performance indicators at provincial and district level to allow for self assessment.



WGE Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building

Organize regular 'Country Team' meetings to review progress against agreed programs and to identify and plan out future activities. Teams to include WGE members, relevant government agency representatives, implementing partners, EOC staff, others)

Organize component-wise meetings of related persons from the GMS CEP/BCI Program. Participants to include WGE members, government agencies representatives, implementing partners, EOC staff, others) to exchange experience and share knowledge and work methods among GMS countries.

Build NSUs capacity for integrating environment into development planning in the GMS countries through recruitment of skilled national consultants and training.



Other WGE Capacity Building Activities

- **The Phnom Penh Plan**
- **Study Visits**
- **Cross Sectoral Fora (Journalists, transport engineers, tourism agencies, hydropower specialists)**
- **Training for provincial level agencies in PCM, accounting, communication skills, etc.**



EOC Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building

Five Options presented at the Institutional Future Brainstorming Workshop

| No | Option Presented by | Pros | Cons |
|----|---------------------|---|---|
| 1 | Christer Holtzberg | Suggestion of involving broad section of organizations (academia, others) would provide strength to competence to EOC | Not a complete option. Only provides suggestions for consideration. Replacing ADB with UNEP would imply similar level of involvement by UNEP as of ADB. |
| 2 | Peter King | Good, simple and relevant Vision Statement. A GMS majority Board of Governors would add to sense of ownership as would recruitment from the GMS. Distributed structure will additionally provide closeness to the client and the field Bangkok as the hub has good communication, travel connections, recruitment as well as being location for many regional organizations. | Merging with BIMPEAGA means greater difficulty in finding common objectives as BIMP countries are very different from GMS (different issues, strengths) Merging with ASEAN has similar cons and also a more complicated decision making structure. Financing from donors for EOC overheads will not continue. Narrow funding base will need to be broadened. |
| 3 | Dechen Tsering | Close engagement with ADB will ensure some continuity of programming | Not a complete option. Only some comments on possible steps. |



EOC Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building

Five Options presented at the Institutional Future Brainstorming Workshop

| No | Option Presented by | Pros | Cons |
|----|---------------------|---|--|
| 4 | Johan Holmberg | <p>Recruiting GMS nationals to all posts will ensure better sense of ownership.</p> <p>Merit condition for recruitment will ensure optimal effective program implementation</p> <p>A GMS majority Board of Governors would add to sense of ownership as would recruitment from the GMS Network will provide the breadth of support for effective program implementation</p> <p>NSU development into part of the EOC can be started immediately in any case.</p> | <p>Complex Vision Statement</p> <p>No proposal on steps to achieving legal status in Thailand though proposal is to keep the secretariat in Bangkok</p> <p>Keeping a distance from ADB will be difficult if ADB is to continue to channel funding.</p> |
| 5 | Dawood Ghaznavi | <p>Good Vision Statement</p> <p>Effective list of Objectives and Tasks for EON</p> <p>Network arrangement will ensure distributed and 'mobile' strengths and skills where they are needed for quick and efficient response to client demands.</p> <p>Recruitment from GMS and GMS majority on the Board will improve ownership of program by GMS.</p> <p>TAP to provide essential technical strength for effective delivery of programs.</p> <p>'Sub-legal' framework for current period allows high comfort level for countries and helps develop strong working relationships before any legal status is established.</p> | <p>Distributed skills means loss of synergies and critical mass</p> <p>Recruitment of highly skilled staff from GMS based on merit may skew EON toward one or two countries</p> <p>Recruitment of all staff from only GMS countries may not be possible for all positions</p> <p>Coordination between NSUs in the six countries will be a major task.</p> <p>High level of funding required. A GMS majority Board of Governors would add to sense of ownership as would recruitment from the GMS</p> |



Comments received from WGE and some responses from 1st July 2008 discussions

EOC must move closer to the WGE members particularly during the process of developing concepts.

NOTED It is proposed to organize country and component wise meetings to discuss the concepts in detail prior to presenting these at the WGE meeting in November 2008.

Useful to document our meetings (resolutions, decisions, proceedings, etc.) onto CD ROMs for distribution and record.

NOTED

EOC is requested to assist Myanmar in carrying out assessment of the impact of the cyclone Nargis on the coastline **NOTED** for follow up with ADB



Comments received from WGE and some responses from 1st July 2008 discussions

There is a need to develop closer cooperation and linkages with ASEAN (Technical Working Group on Climate Change) NOTED

EOC should put forward one option on future institutional setup elaborating the stages of growth of the institution NOTED and is part of the options paper to be presented during WGE AM15

NSU need to be strengthened at the national level while similar strengthening is necessary at the provincial levels NOTED and is included in the capacity building concept presented in this WGE AM14.

The EOC can become more effective in cross sectoral integration if it has some legal basis with a clear short, medium and long-term strategy. NSU staff needs to be built up also for this purpose NOTED



ADB

Comments received from WGE and some responses from 1st July 2008 discussions

The concepts presented to the WGE are in line with GMS priorities but linkages between them need to be clarified to show their 'programmatic nature as opposed to stand alone 'projects' NOTED

The concepts presented cover too much and we should focus our resources on two or three issues to be more effective.
NOTED. The CEP will improve its focus on the scope as laid out in the RETA 6289 and the supplementary papers



ADB

Thank you!

<http://www.gms-eoc.org>



ADB