



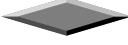
ROOM DOCUMENT NO. 6

DAC WORKING PARTY ON AID EVALUATION

**PREPARATION OF FORTHCOMING
WORKSHOP ON
“EVALUATION FEEDBACK FOR
EFFECTIVE LEARNING AND
ACCOUNTABILITY”**

Submitted by Japan

Agenda item 6 v)



**32nd Meeting
10-11 February 2000**

CONCEPT PAPER ON WORKSHOP (DRAFT)

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BACKGROUND

As clearly stated in the DAC Principles for Evaluation of Development Assistance, the purposes of conducting evaluations are “to improve future aid policy, programmes and projects through feedback of lessons learned” and “to provide a basis for accountability”. The review of the DAC Principles for Evaluation of Development Assistance, published in 1998, found that the adequacy of dissemination practices of evaluation lessons was a major concern of DAC Members central evaluation offices.

As noted in *Complementing and Reinforcing the DAC Principles for Aid Evaluation [DCD/DAC/EV(99)5]*, the review stated that feedback and communication practices need to be strengthened for the better use of evaluation results. Better use of evaluation results, in turn, is important for improving present and future aid policies and programmes.

At the 31st meeting of the DAC Working Party on Aid Evaluation, Japan offered to host a workshop. Indeed, Japan is keen to contribute to the important work improving development assistance and its accountability through the promotion of effective use of evaluation results. In this context, Japan has proposed to hold the workshop on “Evaluation Feedback for Effective Learning and Accountability” in Tokyo this coming autumn.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The overall objectives of the workshop are to share experiences and to identify useful practices and problems encountered in efforts to promote feedback and communication of evaluation results with a view to making organizations more learning-oriented, transparent and accountable to the public.

KEY ISSUES AND TOPICS

Several issues have been raised for follow-up within the review process of the DAC Principles. The workshop topics will be based on these issues so that the Working Party may progress in this field. Some of the possible topics are listed below:

1. Appropriate timing and relevance for evaluations and feedback, clearer purposes and clients of evaluations for effective feedback : (1) criteria for selecting projects and programs to be evaluated, (2) lessons and results found, analyzed and aggregated to meet priority of organizations, dissemination strategy

2. **Four levels of feedback required - different requirements, modalities :** (1) feedback to policy makers and senior management for strategic planning and decision-making, (2) to the technical staff to improve project planning and management, (3) to the partner countries (and within partner countries), and (4) to media and the public to increase public support for development assistance.
3. **Organizational systems and culture for best use of evaluation results :** (1) the role and responsibility of a central evaluation unit, (2) allocation of human resources, and (3) evaluation feedback for the budget allocation
4. **Quality, objectivity and participation :** an independent, credible and good quality evaluation to assure maximum transparency and accountability to the public, while allowing optimum participation and ownership of operational departments for adequate learning
5. **Effective feedback within each evaluation process**
6. **Improvement of evaluation methodologies for effective feedback.**

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

The Workshop is expected to result in a synthesis report based on background documents as well as presentations and discussions at the workshop. The results of the workshop will also be fed into work on elaborating good/effective practices for the feedback and communication of evaluation results within and outside development agencies.

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

It is proposed that the workshop should last two and a half days on 26 - 28 September 2000. The workshop should provide Members with a good opportunity to constructively exchange views and experiences. In addition, Members are encouraged to nominate southern partners to participate in the workshop to strengthen partnership and mutual learning through evaluation.

Taking advantage of this opportunity, Japan is also considering hosting a one-day seminar on evaluation and its effective feedback on 29 September. This seminar would be targeted to Japanese audiences, including media, academia and NGOs with the aim of fostering their understanding. In Japan, the budget for evaluation activities of ODA has increased in spite of the severe economic conditions which prevent an overall ODA budget increase. The public demonstrates the greater interest in evaluations. The open seminar should promote better understanding on ODA evaluation within the Japanese public. Members are invited to attend the seminar to present their experiences and exchange frank views with the Japanese audience.

BUDGET

Japan will be happy to host the workshop and the seminar at JICA Institute for International Cooperation in Tokyo. Japan is also prepared to make a voluntary contribution towards the consultancy work for the background documents as well as for workshop assistance. Japan is also prepared to invite some southern delegates to the workshop at its own expense.

PREPARATION

In order to provide a good overview of state-of-the-art feedback practices of members as well as issues for further discussion, Japan proposes to assign a consultant to conduct a review and prepare a background paper which would be circulated in advance to Members. Japan is willing to assist the Secretariat in the preparation of this document. Members are invited to prepare documents and presentations for the workshop which introduce recent developments and practices on the topics.

PLANNING

It would be helpful to set up a Steering Group to assist in the planning and preparation of the workshop by providing ideas and advice in the preparatory process. Any interested Members are welcome to participate in the Group. Those who are willing to contribute to the Group are invited to indicate their interest to Japan and the Secretariat at this meeting.