

# **ECG Peer Review: Status Report**

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The logo of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), consisting of the letters "ADB" in a white serif font on a dark blue square background.

**ADB**

# Status of Peer Review Proposal

- ECG task force visited IADB, EBRD and AsDB to learn about evaluation systems
- General support for the peer review concept
- Proposal draws on OECD DAC principles for peer review
- Draft report discussed at June ECG meeting
- Presentation will conclude by describing the next steps.

# Structural Elements of a Peer Review

1. Draft report provides a basis for proceeding
2. Identifies principles, standards and criteria against which the evaluation function can be reviewed
3. Identifies actors and process to carry out the Peer Reviews
4. Peer Review System described is a broad approach that will need to be modified and adopted to suit the unique characteristics of the MDB under review.

# OECD DAC Peer Review Guidelines

- Core evaluation question: 'Are the agency's evaluation function and its products independent, credible, and useful for learning and accountability purposes, as tested against accepted international standards by a panel of evaluation peers?'
- Three broad areas to be covered:
  1. *The independence of evaluations and evaluation systems*
  2. *The credibility of evaluations*
  3. *The utility of evaluations*

# Peer Review Process:

- Board Committee decides that a Peer Review should be carried out.
- MDB being Peer Reviewed provides financing; cost depends on the size of the institution, the scope and depth of the review, the size of the Peer Review Panel and person months from consultants
- Communication takes place with ECG Chair, who monitors the Peer Review through the Chair of the Board Committee

# Principles, Criteria and Standards

- *Policy recommendations and guidelines in the MDB's Evaluation Policy:* Assess performance of the evaluation function in implementing its policy and guidelines.
- *Specific indicators and benchmarks:* ECG GPS and bench marking studies. May include key mandate objectives (e.g., development, poverty alleviation, transition impact, additionality of the institution, environmental performance, etc).
- *Other principles:* International norms and agreements (e. g., MDGs; Paris Declaration).

# The Actors

- *ECG as a collective body*
- *The evaluation system of the MDB: the independent evaluation department and the Board committee and management)*
- *Peer Review Panel: Panel of ECG Peers and independent evaluation experts. The Independent Peers will be the majority. Rotation among ECG members and a roster of independent evaluation experts.*
- *Panel supported by consultants*

# Organisational Structure

- Chair of the Board Committee of the Peer Reviewed MDB agrees to the appointment of the Independent Peers and to the nomination of the ECG Panel member(s).
- Chair provides guidance to the Panel.
- The Chair is assisted by a senior evaluator from the evaluation department, who reports during the Peer Review to the Chair.
- The Chairs of the Committee and Peer Review Panel and the Chief Consultant examiner form a *Peer Review Steering Group* .

# Questions/Topics: (i) Are we doing the right things? (ii) Are we doing things well?

1. evaluation policy: role, responsibility and objectives of the evaluation unit
2. impartiality, transparency and independence
3. adequacy of resources and staff
4. evaluation partnerships/capacity building
5. quality of evaluations and methodology
6. planning, coordination and harmonisation
7. dissemination, feedback, knowledge management and learning
8. evaluation use, including the role of the board and management and timeliness of evaluations.

# Role of Peer Review Panel

1. Carry out the review within the MDB (field visits not anticipated)
2. Inform the ECG Chair of during the process
3. Guide the consultants
4. Provide feedback to the Committee of the Board of Directors and Senior Management of the MDB under review.

# Procedures

- *The preparatory phase:* Background analysis and data collection. The Evaluation Head and the Chair of the Peer Review Panel, in cooperation with the Chair of the Board Committee, prepare a Peer Review Approach Paper. ECG Chair reviews it, in consultation with ECG.
- *The consultation phase:* The Peer Review Panel, supported by consultants, conducts consultations in the MDB. At the end of this phase, the Peer Review Panel prepares a draft report. In finalizing the report, adjustments made based on the feedback received, as the Peer Review Panel considers justified.
- *The assessment phase:* Following discussions, a Chair's report gives the Board committee's conclusions and/or recommendations on the final Panel report. There may be differences of opinion between the Panel and the Board Committee.

# **FUNCTIONS OF PEER REVIEW**

- *Dialogue among the MDBs:* Systematic exchange of information and views can be the basis for improvement in evaluation system and harmonization across MDBs.
- *Transparency:* Clarify evaluation principles, rules, practices and procedures and explain their rationale. ECG can further develop GPS.
- *Capacity building:* Mutual learning process in which best practices are exchanged.
- *Replication:* Encourage other IFIs to undertake peer reviews.
- *Compliance:* Monitor compliance with MDB's evaluation policy and with ECG GPSs.

# CONDITIONS FOR EFFECTIVE PEER REVIEWS

- *Value sharing:* Convergence among MDBs on standards against which to evaluate performance (e.g., ECG's GPS).
- *Commitment:* Adequate commitment of time and human and financial resources.
- *Mutual trust:* co-operative, non-adversarial process -- the focus is on learning and not on ranking MDBs.
- *Credibility:* the approach must be objective, fair and consistent supported by strong, independent panels. Board Committee in control. Report public.

# Next Steps

- ECG generally agreed to adopt the approach to peer reviews.
- Final written comments on the draft paper to be submitted by the end of June.
- The revised paper is to be approved by ECG at its fall 2007 meeting and then posted on ECGNet.
- Three ECG members expressed interest in undertaking a peer review within the next couple of years
- The initial peer reviews will be considered pilots – as experience is gained, ECG's approach to peer reviews will be revised to reflect the lessons learned.