DAC Network on Poverty Reduction

DISSEMINATING AND CONNECTING POVNET MESSAGES TO RELATED ACTIVITIES:
LEARNING EVENTS WITH THE TRAIN-4-DEV NETWORK

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I. Background

1. POVNET is collaborating with the Train4Dev Network to organise a series of eight developing country-based learning events during 2009-10. The aim of these events is to disseminate the POVNET messages on promoting pro-poor growth and provide donors' field-level practitioners with knowledge and skills that will help them in their policy dialogue with partner countries and their programming of pro-poor growth interventions.

2. An Executive Committee has been formed to oversee preparation and monitor implementation of these learning events (as well as a series of learning events on Managing for Development Results). The Executive Committee brings together POVNET participants as well as members of the Train4Dev Network willing to contribute to and jointly finance the learning events on promoting pro-poor growth (namely Austria, Ireland, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland). Earnan O’Cleirigh, POVNET Vice-Chair, is Co-Chair of the Executive Committee with specific responsibility for the learning events on promoting pro-poor growth. GTZ acts as lead agency on behalf of the funding agencies and, amongst other things, is responsible for contracting issues.

3. The Executive Committee has agreed to hire a consortium of the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and ITAD to prepare and deliver the series of learning events, in close collaboration with the host agencies for each event and the specially hired resource persons.

II. Recent developments

4. Since the last POVNET meeting in March 2009, three developments can be highlighted:

   i) Contractual arrangements with ODI/ITAD have been concluded.

   ii) A provisional set of briefing notes for the learning events has been developed.

   iii) In response to a request made through the Train4Dev Network and to POVNET members, agencies in nearly a dozen developing countries have indicated their readiness to host a learning event.

5. The most substantial development is that Irish Aid and UNDP have agreed to host a pilot learning event in Tanzania from 19 to 21 October 2009. This will be an important opportunity for testing the programme and the material that has been developed. Representatives from the Executive Committee (Earnan O’Cleirigh from Irish Aid and Melanie Wiskow from GTZ) will participate in this pilot event. In addition, participants will be expected to provide feedback on the course through a more intensive evaluation process than would normally be adopted.

1. Further information on the Train4Dev Network is available on the Internet at: www.train4dev.net
III. Next steps

6. POVNET will have a first-hand debriefing on the Tanzania pilot learning event at its meeting on 22 October 2009.

7. Subsequently, the Executive Committee will meet again, possibly during the first week of November 2009, to discuss the outcomes of the pilot exercise and agree on any corrective action that may need to be taken.

8. A second pilot learning event will then be organised, most probably in early 2010.

9. The remaining six learning events will then be rolled out.

10. As an adjunct to this process, a consultation may be organised with the consultants to aggregate findings and distil lessons based on the experience from conducting several learning events. This may possibly be done back-to-back with the Train4Dev Network's annual meeting in mid 2010 or in association with a POVNET meeting.