



## **ROOM DOCUMENT 10a**

# **DAC Network on Development Evaluation**

### **EVALUATION CAPACITY BUILDING - RECENT INITIATIVES**

**Item V: iii**

**“SEMINAR/WORKSHOP ON ODA EVALUATION”**

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**3<sup>rd</sup> meeting  
2 – 3 June 2005**

**“Seminar/Workshop on ODA Evaluation”**  
**Prepared for the 3rd meeting of DAC Development Evaluation Network**  
**2-3 June 2005**

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan**

**1. Introduction**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) has organized three meetings of the “Tokyo Workshop on ODA Evaluation” since 2001, with the main purpose of deepening the common understanding of ODA evaluation in the Asian countries and enhancing the evaluation systems of these countries in partnership with Japan. At the third “Tokyo Workshop on ODA Evaluation”, Asian countries appreciated the evaluation workshops and stressed the importance of moving from discussion to practice. In this way, Thailand has expressed its readiness to host an “Evaluation seminar.”

Following the expression of interest by Thailand, the Seminar/Workshop on ODA Evaluation was held in Bangkok from 17 to 21 January 2005 hosted jointly by the governments of Thailand and Japan.

**2. The objective of the seminar/workshop**

(1) Capacity building in monitoring and evaluation

To study the basic concepts and methods of monitoring/evaluation and to create capable personnel on this area, in order to improve the quality of evaluation.

(2) Establishment of a management system

To contribute to the establishment of a management system by which, through capacity building, evaluation can be implemented in a timely and appropriate manner, and by which evaluation results can be appropriately reflected in the planning and implementation of development policy.

(3) Clarification of critical issues in the monitoring and evaluation

To identify critical issues in evaluation in developing countries through discussions in the workshop.

**3. Agenda and participants**

Fifty participants from Asian countries attended the seminar. After general lectures on ODA evaluation, participants carried out case study simulations of evaluation based on the actual circumstances of their own countries on the following five themes: Education, Infrastructure, Rural Development & Poverty Reduction, Environment and Outcome Evaluation. Evaluation specialists of DAC, World Bank, and UNDP contributed to the seminar as lecturers. Following the seminar, thirty participants including senior government officials from 17 Asian countries, evaluation specialists of multilateral development agencies, foreign ministry officials, staff of aid implementing agencies and academics from Japanese evaluation institutions attended the workshop. They discussed challenges and countermeasures on monitoring and evaluation (M&E) found through case studies of the seminar, and the importance of the partnership in evaluation. A number of people attended the workshop as observers.

#### **4. Discussions**

Participants of the workshop recognized afresh the importance of monitoring and evaluation for enhancing the effectiveness of ODA and development efforts and for improving accountability. The workshop emphasized the critical importance of political commitment and mainstreaming M&E in all development activities regardless of financial sources, including exposures of policy makers and project/program planners to evaluation methodologies and system. In this connection, it was stressed to promote all types of results-based evaluation of the project, program and country levels and internal and external evaluation approaches involving all stakeholders in the evaluation process.

To make effective use of the results of ODA and development monitoring/evaluation, it was considered as essential to ensure an effective feedback mechanism to reflect the results of evaluation in policy, program and project planning and implementation. The workshop shared the importance of establishing a management mechanism for evaluation involving all phases of the project cycle and strengthening neutral and professional evaluation competence, including the enhancement of credibility. The workshop stressed the promotion of joint evaluation between donors and partner countries for strengthening ownership and capacity development in partner countries, and emphasized harmonization and standardization of evaluation and reporting procedures.

#### **5. Future challenges**

(1) The continuation of regional cooperation on evaluation was urged so that Asian countries could share a common understanding of ODA and development evaluation. It was proposed to strengthen and upgrade national and regional evaluation training seminars for junior officers and workshops for senior officials concerned with all phases of development.

(2) The workshop also recognized the need for establishing and/or strengthening national evaluation societies to improve evaluation methodologies and systems and initiate codes of conduct for evaluators, and promoting a regional network of national evaluation societies in Asia.