

## Learning Network on Capacity Development

# **LenCD**

Capacity development has increasingly been recognized as a key driver for development and aid effectiveness and as critical for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and development countries' long-term aspirations for reducing poverty. Major efforts have been made in recent years to improve our knowledge base on capacity development (CD). This has included the organization of International Symposia on Capacity Development in Manila and Tokyo in 2003 and 2004. LenCD was established at a meeting of the cosponsors of those events in June 2004 and came out of the desire to provide greater form and visibility to capacity development, both as part of the work of the DAC Network on Governance and Capacity Development (GOVNET) and beyond. (LenCD draws on a greater range of participants than the GOVNET) The model largely follows the example of the Learning Network on Program-Based Approaches (LENPA), but the LenCD is also integrated into the GOVNET.

### The Capacity Development Perspective

Viewing development through the capacity development lens has important implications for aid effectiveness. Under this perspective, productivity growth and wider social and developmental goals are predicated on the enhancement of a range of capabilities at the individual, organizational/institutional and societal levels. Capacity development is seen as a domestic change process based on local ownership, leadership and conducive incentive systems. From this perspective, the role of development cooperation agencies becomes one of supporting and catalyzing domestically led change. Successfully pursuing this role requires particular skills, approaches, and strategies that should be mainstreamed in development cooperation agencies.

### Purpose:

LenCD promotes learning about capacity development. Membership primarily from development agencies (DAC members and others). Its objectives are to:

- ▶ facilitate the sharing of lessons about good and bad practice for supporting capacity development in developing countries;
- ▶ promote the exchange of experience and cooperation in mainstreaming capacity development concerns into agency operations;
- ▶ foster country level dialogue and collaboration around the pursuit of lasting capacity outcomes.
- ▶ promote data collection, monitoring and other empirical work on capacity development.
- ▶ Be the main partner to advance the GOVNET's capacity development agenda
- ▶ support to DAC in mainstreaming a capacity development perspective throughout its work.

### Work programme 2004/5

LENCD has embarked on the following initial work programme:

- (1) Prepare a Good Practice paper on Capacity Development with the OECD/DAC as the GOVNET task team for vetting and approval by the GOVNET meeting 26-28 January 2005.
- (2) Reach out to the wider development community, enroll new members and promote the development of common systems
- (3) for exchanging CD knowledge (CD workspace, CD clearinghouse, CD monitor, etc.).
- (4) Support the completion of the GOVNET study in CD carried out by ECDPM and other partners.
- (5) Organize a CD Symposium in the fall of 2005, tentatively around the subject of "Monitoring for capacity development results" in particular at the country level. (lead sponsor GTZ).
- (6) Promote and sponsor a regional workshop in Africa in follow-up to the Latin-American workshop on CD and South-South Cooperation in Bogotá, September 2004.

### Operating Principles

LenCD is an informal network including analysts from bilateral and multilateral, governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations engaged in development cooperation. LenCD will invite other partners to participate as appropriate and will make a deliberate effort to link up with other relevant networks. Participating agencies and organizations are invited to designate two representatives to act as their main and alternate point persons. Exchanges of information and discussions take place primarily by electronic means. This will be complemented by opportunities to meet in person. Meetings will be arranged primarily around the annual symposium and when relevant to the DAC or GOVNET agenda. Coordination responsibilities will rotate annually as will responsibilities in connection with the annual symposium.

### Workspace and instruments

LenCD will be using a common workspace hosted on the Capacity Development Net platform ([www.capacitywhoiswho.net/](http://www.capacitywhoiswho.net/)). It will also use and contribute to existing instruments, such as the Development Gateway on Capacity Development for the MDGs ([www.developmentgateway.org/mdg](http://www.developmentgateway.org/mdg)), CIDA's extranet site on CD <http://web.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cd> and [www.capacity.org](http://www.capacity.org). LenCD will consider publishing a regular newsletter with updates and substantive features, under the tentative title "Capacity Development Monitor."