

# 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 (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 closely linked to the GOVNET.

## The Capacity Development Perspective

Viewing development through a capacity lens has important implications for aid effectiveness. It requires us to focus on a range of capabilities at the individual, organizational/institutional and societal levels that can help to increase productivity and support the attainment of wider social and developmental goals. Capacity development is then the endogenous change process, which helps to strengthen these capabilities and which depends on local ownership, leadership and conducive motivators? Development cooperation agencies can support this change process or even provide catalysts to stimulate it, but these tasks require skills, approaches, and strategies, which these organisations need to nurture within their staff.

## Purpose:

LenCD promotes learning about capacity development. 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 the 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 as the responsible DAC/GOVNET task team for consultation and endorsement in principle in January 2005 and subsequent approval by the DAC itself.
- (2) Establish the group's credibility by expanding its membership within the broad development community
- (3) Exchange CD knowledge through the CD workspace, CD clearinghouse, CD monitor, etc.).
- (4) Support the completion of the GOVNET study on Capacity, change and performance 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 (primarily DAC members). 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 electronically. 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 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."