

Report of Annual Review Meeting on “Distance Learning” Programme

Duration of the meeting: 9 March 2007

Venue: Beijing

I. OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING

The objective of the meeting is to review the results achieved and project progress made in 2006, and reach agreements on priorities and key follow-up actions for the year 2007.

Representatives from the pilot provinces, Ministry of Education, CICETE, UNDP and national consultant participated in the meeting.

II. RESULTS OF THE PROJECT IN 2006

1. YUNAN PROVINCE--TEACHER TRAINING, RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, OUTPUT DISSEMINATION, AND FACILITY IMPROVEMENT

Yunan province organized training workshops for middle and primary school teachers, and the training materials and experiences were disseminated to other counties. The province conducted training workshops for 198 back-bone teachers at provincial level, and provided hands-on and practice opportunities. The training activities achieved good results.

The province also conducted resource development. An *ICT Training Manual* was developed to facilitate connection ICT training and teaching. The province also reformed teacher evaluation method by integrating process evaluation with result management. Some tailor-made resources and training were also delivered to meet specific demand. Some thematic studies such as teaching activity research, case study, ICT sustainability, community service were conducted to underpin project implementation. A lot of attention was paid to linkage of long distance learning and face-to-face training, and tutorship during distance training.

The province also widened the ICT resource channel, for example the province cooperated with the National Teaching Network and other external resource centers to exchange training materials and experiences. The project is also a platform to summarize teacher training principle and method. Successful experiences and best practices were planned to disseminate province-wide.

Facilities in the training centers at provincial, county and township level were upgraded, and technical staff members were trained to improve network efficiency.

To date, there are 21,000 person times trained through the project, in which 10,000 person times are women teachers). 2,800 teachers finished computer proficiency training, including over 1,000 women teachers. 1658 back-bone teacher from every village of the project county were trained in the project. 400 headmasters from 120 village schools were trained. 2357 teachers obtained training of college courses.

2. GANSU PROVINCE—ADEQUATE USE OF TRAINING CENTERS, RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, AND FACILITY UPGRADE

The ICT system under this project in Gansu has been self-running. The training centers at county and village level in the province have been fully applied to conduct all kinds of training. Township level training centers have been not only used as teacher training center but also farmer service centers.

Some research and resource development activities were conducted including teaching method, activity analysis, case study and sustainability of ICT training. Two training materials got national award.

Facilities in county centers were upgraded in 2006 to improve working efficiency.

3. SICHUAN PROVINCE—TRAINER'S TRAINING, COUMMUNITY TRAINING, OUTPUTS DISEMMINATION AND FACILITY UPGRADE

Sichuan province conducted trainers' training for headmaster and teachers in project counties. 90 back-bone teachers from the project counties were trained at provincial and county centers. Case studies were conducted to explore specific issues which could have general impact.

The provincial ICT centers developed website (www.scteta.com.cn) in the project to support self-learning of the teachers. Computer proficiency trainings were conducted for back-bone teachers. Case studies were taken to find better ways to improve teachers' quality and change of teaching activity.

The ICT center in the project was also used as community training platform in Mabian County. 187 laid-off workers and 325 farmers were trained. The project linked well with other related projects such as Li Jiacheng Project and Training project for Rural Middle and Primary School Teachers. The networks of the projects are complemented and result of each project was maximized. Synergy of the projects were built among training and tutorship system, technical safeguard system and monitor/evaluation system.

The systems in county centers were fully used. Training of 1,800 person times was finished. Systems in villages were operated 4 hours per day in average. 90% of teachers in villages used the training facilities.

Some outputs of the project were disseminated to other counties and towns in the province. Output dissemination plan was approved to expand the project model from 3 project counties to 60 minority counties and then to 100 counties to cover al rural area in the province.

Hardware and facilities of the ICT centers in the province were also upgraded to meet the current demand. Project websites were set up in project counties:

Mabian County: <http://undp.miniedu.com/mabian.jsp>

Xuyong County: <http://undp.miniedu.com/xuyong.jsp>

Pingwu County: <http://undp.miniedu.com/pinwu.jsp>

III. PRIORITIES IN 2007

- All the pilot provinces place output dissemination as one of the main tasks in 2007;
- Summary of project experiences and enlarge project impact;

- Sustainability of ICT model and adapting to rural characteristics and improve resource utilization;
- Improvement of research level and achievement of project result—improve teachers' quality in rural area;

IV. MAIN CHALLENGES

- i. How to improve quality of resource development and study to further improve quality of distance learning is a one of the key task in 2007.
- ii. Human resource bottleneck in disseminating project outputs and ensure project sustainability.
- iii. How to find a sustainable ICT model for teachers' training in remote rural area by integration of ICT training and school-based training.
- iv. Government cost sharing availability is a constraint.

V. CONCLUSIONS

- i. It is reaffirmed that the project has been implemented very smoothly according to project plan.
- ii. It is a consensus that project outputs should be disseminated to other poor rural areas. This should be done through various channels, including publishing the project best practices/established models and inviting media to report on the project experiences and results.
- iii. Annual work plan for 2007 should be finalized in two weeks after the meeting.
- iv. Every province should make every effort to reach target of government cost sharing as committed in the project document and a payment schedule will be consolidated by CICETE together with the submission of Annual Work Plan.
- v. Further efforts should be made to improve quality of training and research.

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Annex List of Participants

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