

Annual Project Review Report Template

The format of the APR Report is flexible. It must, however, cover the essential elements on results, namely progress towards outcome, outputs produced and relevant efforts on partnerships and soft assistance. Each office may add any other element, depending on the project and results.

Project title: Building-up of International Poverty Alleviation Centre in China

Atlas Award ID. CPR/05/208

Period covered: The Year of 2006

PROJECT PERFORMANCE—CONTRIBUTION TO THE CP OUTCOMES

(Element 1: CP outcomes/indicators)

This programme is designed to strengthen National efforts to lead and manage Xiaokang/MDG implementation supported through a variety of instruments and capacity building initiatives.

(Element 2: Update on outcomes, situation analysis)

In 2006, the Chinese government has increased its efforts on the development of national poverty reduction and South-south cooperation. The number of poor population continued to decline. The Chinese Communist Party raised in the Fifth Plenary Session of the Sixteenth CPC Committee that inputs to national poverty reduction shall be increased, the intellectual qualification of the population living in poor areas shall be enhanced, their basic living and production conditions be enhanced and viable approach to more income and revenue be explored. Apart from it, the head of Chinese government made proposals in the UN Development Fundraising Summit to realize MDGs. In the same event, China was committed to the expansion of assistance to indebted poor countries and the least-developed countries and delivery of trainings to 30 thousand personnel in developing countries within the next 3 years. Up to now, the assistance to the developing world is underway in China with further steps to be taken in this year.

Over the past year of operation, IPRCC launched a range of initiatives to strengthen study and dialogue in the areas of pro-poor policies. The international conferences and forums on poverty reduction participated or hosted by IPRCC boosted international exchanges on poverty reduction policies and experience. Training seminars on poverty monitoring and evaluation held by IPRCC promoted capacity building of poverty reduction in China. Of the thematic international seminars delivered by IPRCC, one was devoted to South-south dialogue, accomplished in introducing poverty reduction experience of China to government officials from 27 developing countries.

(Element 3: Annual outputs)

The annual project outputs in 2006 are the achievements under the 4 Intended outputs. To be specific:

Institutional set-up and development of Center

Output 1: Institutional and governance framework of the Center improved and put in place

Output 2: PMO/Center further staffed and equipped

Output 3: Strategic Plan approved

New poverty and pro-poor policy knowledge generated

Output 1: Consistent source/depository of data and information on income and human poverty planned

Output 2: High-quality policy-oriented studies focused on poverty issues of national and international relevance produced

Training and Learning (better add specific figures to the outputs here)

Output 1: Fellowship programme, training courses and customized study programs provided to development officials and practitioners within the country and from other developing countries

Pro-poor policy knowledge sharing, dissemination and advocacy (better add specific figures to the outputs here)

Output 1: Materials for enhancing brand-awareness of the Center developed

Output 2: Center's policy research outputs widely shared through conferences, pro-poor policy forums at both national/international levels

(Element 4: Updates on outputs)

Generally speaking, as 2006 is the second year of project implementation, most outputs generated are of initiative nature, laying basis for the future substance activities in the years that follow. The work done is normally first-phase inputs. Specific updates of outputs for various components are elaborated as follows:

Institutional set-up and development of Center

Output 1. Institutional and governance framework of Center endorsed and put in place

In regard with the institutional organization, the Charter for IPRCC (draft) has come into being and reached the consensus between the BOT members. The Board of Trustees (BOT) has had the first meeting of the board was going on smoothly as scheduled, attributed to the close contact maintained after the first meeting of the board, the establishment of the Board of Advisors is in process, and a number of candidates of BOA has accepted the invitation to BOA of IPRCC. The recruitment of Research Director is started and the immediate step is to reach the candidates.

Output 2. PMO/Center staffed and equipped

◦ The institutional and management system of IPRCC has come into shape for the Managing Director has been appointed, relevant staffers have been in place, temporary site for office has been identified, necessary office facilities have been installed, regulations and rules have been put in effect and the basic conditions to run the center in full functions are all achieved.

Output 3. Strategic Plan established

The Five Year Strategic Development Plans is completed preliminarily and has been submitted for evaluation and approval in the end of 2006.

New poverty and pro-poor policy knowledge generated

Output 1: Consistent source/depository of data and information on income and human poverty planed

IPRCC launched in 2006 the Research to design the scheme of building IPRCC database. The database, once established, shall support the training, exchange and research programs of IPRCC with appropriate data and provide statistical service for various national and international institutions to implement their poverty reduction projects. The research result expects to be submitted in March, 2006.

Output 2: High-quality policy-oriented studies focused on poverty issues of national and international relevance produced

In 2006, IPRCC embarked research programs which were designed and implemented to address practical demands arising from international training, exchanges and poverty reduction campaign in China:

First, the initial stage of the Compilation and Translation of Poverty Reduction Materials in China was accomplished. The program has four components: Poverty Reduction History in China, Transformation of Poverty Reduction Policies, Compilation of Poverty Reduction Literature, and Compilation of Poverty Reduction Case Study. The results are expected in June of 2006. They shall become important teaching materials and literature for international exchanges.

Second, Design the poverty database of IPRCC. The purpose is to design a database which, as is completed, shall equip training, exchanges and research programs with plentiful statistics and avail relevant institutions at home and abroad of statistical service. The result shall be submitted by March 2007.

Third, the research on Viable Mechanism of Subsidized Loans Directly Accessible to Poor Households was accomplish;. The purpose of this research is to analyze the most effective methodology and mechanism of subsidized loans for rural households in China and other countries so as to help poor households address the obstacle in their way to get finance. The result of research shall be submitted by April of 2006.

Training and Learning

Output 1: Training courses and customized study programs provided to development officials and practitioners within the country and from other developing countries

In the aspect of training, IPRCC delivered trainings in 2006 at the following three levels:

First, trainings targeting IPRCC staff. It mainly covered short-term training programs with subjects ranging from poverty theory, poverty monitoring and evaluation methodology, implementation and management of poverty reduction programs to financial accounting. All were aimed at enhancing IPRCC capacity building.

Second, trainings to plenish the pool of resource persons. The Basic Course of Poverty Analysis, Monitoring and Evaluation co-organized with the World Bank Institute falls to this category of trainings which is aimed to produce resource persons for IPRCC. Participants to the seminar came from relevant government agencies, research institutes and some were IPRCC staff members.

Third, trainings to serve government officials from developing countries. IPRCC hosted 3 International Training workshop on Experiences of Poverty Reduction in China in the year of 2006, delivered specialized training for 17 high-medium officials from 51 countries in Asia, Africa, North America (the Caribbean) and Oceania (South Pacific Region). The workshops took on diversified forms from lecturing, experience sharing, case study and field trip to participatory discussion which have all proved rewarding.

Finally, IPRCC hosted the Second ASEAN Plus Three High-level Workshop on Poverty Reduction. The workshop was attended by government officials from 10 ASEAN members including Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam and China, Japan and Korea and ASEAN Secretariat, with nine delegations headed by ministers. Observers from Asian Development Bank, World Bank, United Nations World Food Programme, DFID, GTZ, and other multi-lateral and bilateral organizations also participated in the event. Hui Liangyu, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Vice Premier of Chinese State Council presented at and addressed the opening ceremony on behalf of Chinese Government. The workshop achieved the

expected goals of reviewing and assessing the ongoing efforts with poverty reduction and conducting exchanges and discussions over the measures to enhance the initiative and improve the efficiency of poverty reduction efforts by expanding consensus, strengthening exchange, promoting collaboration, building up platform and increasing aid. In an aim to expand the consensus reached at the workshop and to follow up the measures and strategies devised by the workshop, China State Council Leading Group Office for Poverty Alleviation and Development (LGOP) released the Beijing Proposal for the Second ASEAN Plus Three High-level Workshop on Poverty Reduction.

(Element 5: Reasons if progress below target)

The programs yet completed within 2006 are as follows: 1) The 5-year research Plan. The reason for incompleteness is that the program shall be accomplished by the CTA of IPRCC and more time is required for the newly appointed CTA (who could only work on part-time basis for personal reasons) to finish this plan; 2) Four Research Programs. The reason for incompleteness is that this program was launched late in the year to be finished within shorter than half a year period; 3) Purchase of Training Facilities. The reason for incompleteness is that a new duty-free purchase license was required.

(Element 6: Update on partnership strategies)

In accordance with arrangements provided by project document, CICETE of Ministry of Commerce has greatly supported project implementation by overseeing the implementing process, organizing PMO, dealing with financial arrangements of project activities and etc. Participation from various academic institutions like the Chinese Academy of Social Science, Renmin University, China Agricultural University are widely witnessed in policy discussion, information exchange and workshop activities of the project. The unique managing body of the project, the PMO, has played an active role in assisting in day-to-day project management, coordination among donors and agencies, reporting work and etc.

World Bank Institution provided Institutional Development Fund of 200,000 USD to IPRCC to support a series of training activities on poverty Monitoring&Evaluation.

DFID has contributed to the program by providing a donation of 500,000 USD to support program activities.

(Element 7: Recommendations and proposed action)

According to the stipulations in the Program Document of Establishing the International Poverty Reduction Center in China, the executive period of the program shall be four years with an aggregate amount of imbursement as \$ 6 million to which UNDP committed \$ 1 million from its core funds and 3 million to be mobilized and the Chinese government committed \$ 2 million. UNDP planned to divide its contribution into two phases. The first phase, or inception phase, spans from May 2006 to May 2007 with a total input of \$ 1 million and that has been fully imbursed. The second phase spans from May 2007 to May 2009 with a total input of \$ 300 million to be mobilized. On the one hand, we are glad to notice that UNDP has been doing its utmost to honor its commitment by acquiring a donation equivalent to \$ 500 thousand from DFID. On the other hand, we are fully aware of the time pressing as the funding gap is hard to be filled. We hope fundraising will be going on smoothly while the sustainability and efficiency of every piece of work can be ensured at the same time. We hope we may proceed with everything in a proactive but prudent manner. To this end, we propose to extend the time limit of fund using for the \$ 1.5 million start-up fund from May 2007 to the end of 2007 or early 2008.

PROJECT PERFORMANCE—IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

There may be problems that are generic and not related to any specific output, or that apply to all of them. If so, the Project Manager fills out the "top three" such challenges. More can be added if considered indispensable, although when the top problems are solved other issues will normally improve, too. If the

issues have been covered through the table above, this section may be left empty.

List the three main challenges (at most, if any) experienced during implementation and propose a way forward. Note any steps already taken to solve the problems.

1.Lack of capacity for IPRCC to design the programs which are up to the international standard.It is suggested to implement more training activities for the IPRCC staff and have a full-time CTA, some short-term international consultants and domestic experts for technical support.

2.More efforts need to be made for IPRCC to enhance it's brand awareness in international community.It is suggested to work out more advocacy materials and more strategic branding efforts.

3.A series of modules specifically designed for the training programs need to be developed with support of training experts.

RATING ON PROGRESS TOWARDS RESULTS

If the CO has decided to use "rating of progress" as a tool, the Project Manager indicates his/her rating of progress for outputs. Subsequently the Programme Manager indicates agreement (or rates differently) and rates progress towards the outcome. These ratings may be used by the country office and/or Headquarters for the ROAR analysis, as well as for input to evaluations and other purposes for results validation.

For outcomes:

- X Positive change** (determined by evidence of movement from the baseline towards the end-outcome target measured by an outcome indicator)
- Negative change** (reversal to a level below the baseline measured by an outcome indicator)
- Unchanged**

For outputs: Applied to each output target [This is for the strategic outputs only. If the parties want rating of all outputs, the ones not in the SRF would be based on the project document, work plans or any other agreement on expected results.]

- No** (not achieved)
- Partial** (only if two-thirds or more of a quantitative target is achieved)
- Yes** (achieved)

SOFT ASSISTANCE NOT PROVIDED THROUGH PROJECTS OR PROGRAMMES

[Soft assistance contributes to the outcome and/or outputs. This section asks the Project Manager to provide information about any activities conducted that were **not** envisaged in the work plan or have yet to produce concrete results. It aims to identify additional or specific activities that are required to ensure progress towards the outcome. This section of the APR could contribute to the reporting section in the ROAR regarding narrative on "advocacy and policy dialogue". It allows the country office and the project to work in the same direction in advocacy and dialogue. If soft assistance is not an issue for the project or too sensitive to address, this section may be left empty.]

What are the key activities (if any) of soft assistance undertaken by the project?

What are the main constraints in progress towards outcome that require additional soft assistance?

1. More regular high-level communication and strategic guidance
2. top international experts in poverty reduction provide substantive advisory services
3. _____

Please propose elements for soft assistance strategy for the next year: _____

LESSONS LEARNED (more here?)

[The lessons learned from the APR should serve as input to the performance analysis of the ROAR as well as the annual review, which allows the partners to compile and exchange lessons learned from all projects and APRs.]

Describe briefly key lessons learned during the year:

1. **strong team capacity is vital**
2. **International way of thinking and operation is important for doing international business and cooperation**
3. **Early planing of annual work does good for project implementation**

Prepared by: _____ (Project management, name and title)

[Note: Since reporting should as much as possible be electronic for efficiency, signature is not required. The Project Director can transmit it in an Email, through a website or through a computer programme.]