



Support to the Development of a Governance Assessment Framework in China

The Challenge

China's recent development policies have witnessed a shift from a growth-oriented model to a model that incorporates equality, inclusion, and balance as key factors. To support this new vision, the government has also strengthened its commitment to enhancing the rule of law and accountability. This change has therefore created new needs for the government and other social sectors to improve their understanding of and capacity to exercise good governance. While tools for assessing economic and social development have been relatively better developed in China, there exists a significant gap in the governance aspect. It is imperative to find answers to key questions such as: what is the purpose of governance, how is governance different from government, what are the key aspects of governance, and how to assess/measure performance of governance. The assessment framework that incorporate key dimensions of democratic governance would be important to China. The process of building consensus around the dimension is of equal importance – consensus has to be reached through a participatory approach that promotes discussion, debate and interaction among a wide spectrum of stakeholders.

The Response

UNDP supports this shift of government role in China by introducing more comprehensive views on the governance processes. A development project has therefore been formulated to facilitate and enhance national discussion and debates on key components/aspects of governance in China's specific context. This project, sponsored by the UNDP Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund with technical support of UNDP Oslo Governance Centre, is directly implemented by the China Centre for Comparative Politics and Economics (CCCPE) through coordination of China International Centre for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE).

This project aims to support knowledge-sharing of international best practice and experiences in governance assessments, to facilitate a participatory consultative process in suggesting key elements and issues for governance assessment in China's development context, and to build a broad consensus among national stakeholders on a framework that is nationally owned. This effort may then lead to a further stage of indicator development for governance assessment.

Achievements

Within its one year timeframe, this project will support the CCCPE in its work to share the latest knowledge products relevant to international best practice and thinking on governance assessment with the Chinese target audience; commission papers and research on the key components of governance assessment and the Chinese context to feed into the workshops and seminars on the development of the governance assessment framework; arrange national and international workshops to bring together major stakeholders such as academics, government officials, CSOs, and international development agencies to discuss key components of governance assessment frameworks; develop and disseminate a draft framework for governance assessment; and publish a dissemination report containing the draft governance assessment and the results of the project as a whole, to political leaders to advocate for the assessment's wider application.

At A Glance

Start Date: February 2008

End Date: December 2008

Implementing Partner(s): China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE)

Project ID: 00059712

UNDAF Goal: Social and economic policies are developed and improved to be more scientifically-based and human-centered for sustainable and equitable growth

CPAP output: 3.2 Increased participation of civil society in the design and implementation of development policies/programmes
4.1 Poor and disadvantaged groups empowered to seek remedies for injustices, and justice institutions enabled to be responsive to claims, consistent with international human rights norms

Total Budget:	US\$	200,000
UNDP:	US\$	200,000

Project location(s): Beijing

To contribute to this initiative, or to find out more about the programme, please visit our website or contact Ms Grace Wang, Team Leader, Democratic Governance and HIV/AIDS at (86-10) 8532 0760 or xiaojun.wang@undp.org

UNDP fosters human development to empower women and men to build better lives in China. As the UN's development network, UNDP draws on a world of experience to assist China in developing its own solutions to the country's development challenges. Through partnerships and innovation, UNDP works to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and an equitable Xiao Kang society by reducing poverty, strengthening the rule of law, promoting environmental sustainability, and fighting HIV/AIDS. www.undp.org.cn