

Partnership and Harmonization Technical Working Group
Terms of Reference: An Update
January 2007

Background

1. The current Partnership and Harmonisation (P&H) Technical Working Group (TWG) has evolved from the Government-Donor Partnership Working Group following RGC's proposal presented during the CG meeting held in June 2002. It was restructured in November 2004 as part of RGC's broader move to put in place a coordination mechanism comprising the Government-Donor Joint Technical Working Groups (TWGs) at the sector/thematic level and a higher level coordinating body, the Government-Donor Coordination Committee (GDCC).
2. In 2005 and 2006, the P&H TWG has worked to support CRDB/CDC in fulfilling its mandated task of building a partnership with all development partners; promoting harmonization and alignment of development partners' support with national development priorities; and contributing with the international community through the OECD/DAC for instance to advance the aid effectiveness agenda. At the Second High Level Forum held in Paris in March 2005, the international community reaffirmed the commitments previously embodied in such instruments as the OECD/DAC Best Practices Papers (2002) and the Rome Declaration (2003) to improve development effectiveness in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, with targets to be achieved, and monitored regularly, by 2010.
3. In 2006, RGC launched the NSDP as a unified development plan with targets and goals in the medium term towards achieving the CMDGs. Public investment forms the fundamental basis for achieving the Plan. Given that ODA still plays a major role in this regard, this has made effort for enhanced aid effectiveness all the more relevant. RGC clearly recognizes this and, in January, RGC approved the Strategic Framework for Development Cooperation Management (SFDCM). It sets out broad and long-term policy and institutional framework to maximize the effectiveness of ODA for poverty reduction. The Action Plan on Harmonization, Alignment and Results (2006-2010) was formulated based on Paris Declaration principles, and was approved by RGC in February 2006. It provides a roadmap to achieved desired aid effectiveness outcomes.
4. The GDCC and TWG mechanism was reviewed in mid-2006 with the view to rationalize, streamline and improve its efficiency and effectiveness. As a result, a set of broad guidelines has been prepared to help TWGs prioritize and manage their work and provide further clarification on the linkages between various tiers of the coordination mechanism. A landmark change was the transformation of the Consultative Group mechanism into the Cambodia Development Cooperation Forum (CDCF) to be effective from 2007.

5. In the international arena, CRDB/CDC has been actively worked with OECD/DAC in the aid effectiveness issues. At the second HLF in Paris in March 2005, Cambodia presented a report on progress toward enhanced aid effectiveness in Cambodia. Through the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness, CRDB/CDC has participated as a partner country in finalizing indicators and developing a framework for monitoring progress on the implementation of the Paris Declaration. In 2006, CRDB/CDC was able to lead the first round monitoring survey exercise with excellent support from all partners especially the P&H TWG.

6. These major developments have provided a basis for reviewing the ToR of the P&H TWG to enable it to review its mandate and prioritize its tasks. The work to update the November 2004 ToR was carried out through a series of discussions between CRDB/CDC, which chairs the P&H TWG, and the members through the two co-facilitators (UNDP and DFID). The following sections outline the mandate, priority tasks, and the organizational and operational arrangements for the P&H TWG.

Mandate

7. The mandate of the P&H TWG is to support the Royal Government in its drive towards improved development assistance effectiveness and to maximize its benefits for Cambodia. More specifically, the P&H TWG is to support CRDB/CDC, as RGC's designated focal point for aid coordination, in implementing priorities broadly set forth in the Rectangular Strategy, the Strategic Framework for Development Cooperation Management, the NSDP, and other government policies on aid effectiveness issues.

Priority Tasks

8. Priority tasks of the P&H TWG over the next four years (2007-2010) shall include the following:

- ❖ Support CRDB/CDC in its role of coordinating and monitoring the implementation of RGC's Action Plan on Harmonization, Alignment and Results.
- ❖ Support the implementation of RGC's policy on aid effectiveness and the Strategic Framework on Development Cooperation Management by providing support and advice to CRDB/CDC through the P&H TWG and examining and making recommendations on aid effectiveness issues.
- ❖ Support CRDB/CDC in its preparation of the annual Aid Effectiveness Report by ensuring that all development partners have up-dated the ODA Database, suggesting themes to be discussed, providing suggestions on the draft and acting as a peer review group.
- ❖ Provide recommendations on the further development of the ODA Database.
- ❖ Promote and facilitate the implementation of best practices that are being recommended by the international community and lessons learned in development cooperation management in Cambodia.

- ❖ Identify issues on aid effectiveness for in-depth study and/or analysis that may be guided by the P&H TWG, with resources to be provided by the Multi-Donor Support Program (MDSP) for Implementing the Strategic Framework.
- ❖ Prepare annual workplan and review and report on progress to GDCC.

Organizational and Operational Arrangements

9. The organizational and operational arrangements for the P&H TWG are as follows:
 - ❖ The P&H TWG is chaired by the Secretary General of CRDB/CDC. The Co Facilitators are from UNDP and DFID. Its members include representatives from government ministries/agencies and development partners including NGOs. The support (secretariat-like) unit for the P&H TWG is provided by CRDB/CDC, but is not limited to CRDB/CDC staff.
 - ❖ The P&H TWG shall meet at least three times per year in advance of GDCC meetings. Relevant documents for the meeting including the minute can be viewed on CRDB/CDC website. Nevertheless, the Chair, or his representative, and the Co Facilitators shall meet on an informal basis to address emerging issues and the results of the meeting shall be shared with all members.
 - ❖ The Chair shall have the responsibility to form sub-working group to address specific issues.
 - ❖ The arrangements are open to review and change if needed.

