

**Tokyo Development Learning Center Project
(Japan/World Bank Distance Learning Partnership Project)
MID-TERM REVIEW
December 2006**

Summary of Achievements and Observations

The Japan World Bank Distance Learning Partnership Project, initiated in October 2003, began operating in June 2004 with the launch of the Tokyo Development Learning Center (TDLC). This Review was conducted by a panel of experts to mark the completion of the first half of the 5-year project. Based on an objective evaluation of output measured against original aims, it is hoped that these observations will serve to guide the second half of the Project as the TDLC works to fulfill its mission.

The Review found that the TDLC has achieved a great deal in a short timeframe. The result is a potentially powerful platform whereby:

- Developing countries can access the resources and expertise of Japanese institutions.
- Japanese institutions can benefit from assistance for outreach and the forging of partnerships with countries and institutions of other regions.
- A network-oriented, regional approach is adopted leading to greatly enhanced opportunities.

Specifically, the TDLC has:

- achieved rapid growth in business volumes based on innovative programs. TDLC's utilization rate increased steadily, reaching an average of 70% throughout the year 2005 and peaking in December at 145%. The TDLC has established partnerships with 42 organizations, of which 33 have returned to use the TDLC facilities repeatedly.
- substantially improved management and technical capacity, institutional credibility and motivation within the region's DLCs leading to improved prospects for the network's growth and sustainability.
- played an instrumental role in the creation of a new Association, GDLN Asia Pacific, with the aims of establishing governance frameworks, service standards, and enhancing business and fund-raising opportunities on a region-wide basis.
- developed methods, systems and tools that have been documented, disseminated and in some cases are already supported by well-defined training programs and materials so that they may be adopted for general use in the network.
- created a strong and favorable impression in the World Bank and among partners, especially in countries that host DLCs around the region. It has gained recognition as an effective catalyst for the GDLN that has led by developing consensus among a diverse group and by sharing its management skills and technological resources.
- expanded the reputation of Japan as a valuable development partner to Asian and African countries. This was an outcome of the TDLC's programs which share high quality knowledge from Japanese universities and government institutions with developing countries in areas where Japan has expertise.
- become a "gateway" for international contact between Japanese and external institutions. This role is highly appreciated and may be developed further due to the strength of the World Bank's global presence. It is also consistent with the strategic aims of both major stakeholders – the Bank and the government of Japan.

Expanding on the achievements above, it is hoped that the TDLC will continue its efforts to:

- strengthen GDLN Asia Pacific so that it may develop into a stable, sustainable organization that is professionally managed as a network business.
- design and deliver value added services related to knowledge exchange, blended learning and dialogues. These services and the GDLN concept itself will be defined and articulated more clearly in the interests of more effective communication, promotion and delivery.
- build on interest within the World Bank by developing innovative services that are genuinely useful to the Bank's work.
- secure more paying clients by responding to demand, exposing them to new technological and pedagogical possibilities and training their staff to use them confidently.
- launch new and innovative content initiatives that include bringing together partners from Japan and the region taking advantage of skills available around the network.
- adopt effective performance indicators addressing two areas: communicating impact as well as the operation of the facility and project management.

Overall, the Project is seen by its key stakeholders as having met or exceeded expectations in nearly all areas. It has also succeeded in opening up new opportunities that were not originally envisaged. This strong foundation augurs well for the TDLC as it embarks on the second half of its work program.

**This summary was drafted by the TDLC based on the original in English.*

The full text of the official report is available at <http://www.jointokyo.org/en/about/documents/midtermreview/>