1. Outline of the Project

Country: Thailand  
Project Name: Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) Project, Phase 2

Sector: Support of Persons with Disabilities  
Type of Cooperation: Technical Cooperation Project

Department in Charge: Human Development Department  
Amount (At the time of Evaluation): 348 million yen

Period of Cooperation: Aug. 2007 – Jul. 2012 (Five years)  
Partner Country’s Organization: 
Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD), Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, National Office for Empowerment of Person with Disabilities (NEP)

Other Related Agencies / Organizations: 
Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA), JICA’s Disability Issue Support Committee and Disability related NGOs

1-1 Background of the Project

It is estimated that there are around 600 million persons with disabilities (approx. 15% of total population) living in the Asia-Pacific region. Many of them have less access to services such as education and/or employment. To improve such situation to them, “UN Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992)” and UNESCAP “the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (1993 – 2002)” have been started accordingly. Currently “The 2nd Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (2003 – 2012)” is rigorously observed to implement “the Biwako Millennium Framework (BMF) for Action Towards an Inclusive, Barrier-Free and Right-Based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.”

The Government of Japan took the initiative in BMF and has been expected to play a commensurate role in international cooperation in areas related to Persons with Disabilities.

In this context, Japan-Thailand Regional Technical Cooperation Project for Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability in Thailand (hereinafter referred to as “APCD Project”) had been implemented from August 2002 to July 2007. While The APCD Project aimed the realization of social participation and equal opportunities of Persons with Disabilities through the empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in more than thirty countries of Asia-Pacific region including Thailand, the APCD building was established on November 2004 by Grant Aid of the Government of Japan.

In September 2006, Terminal Evaluation team has recognized the expected achievement of the APCD Project. However, it was recommended that the sustainability of APCD should be further strengthened. Based on the recommendations and the request from the Government of Thailand, the APCD Project Phase 2 has been initiated from August 2007 to July 2012 for 5 years.

1-2 Summary of the Project

(1) Overall Goal

Following points are strengthened by the support of APCD Project;

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Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD), Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, National Office for Empowerment of Person with Disabilities (NEP) |
| **Other Related Agencies / Organizations:** 
Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA), JICA’s Disability Issue Support Committee and Disability related NGOs |
1) Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
2) Promotion of inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society

-Indicators;
1) Regional networks and collaboration mechanisms are initiated/strengthened by organizations of/for Persons with Disabilities.
2) Activities to promote an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society and empowerment of Persons with Disabilities are initiated and conducted by Focal Points Organizations (FPs)/Associate Organizations (AOs).
3) The number of Action Plans with FPs / AOs is increased.

(2) Project Purpose
APCD is able to function as a regional center to facilitate networking and collaboration among organizations of/for Persons with Disabilities towards an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society and empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region.

-Indicators;
1) The number of salient documents /declarations on disabilities to recognize APCD as a functional regional center.
2) The number of organizations of/for Persons with Disabilities (including grass-roots organizations) to recognize APCD as a functional regional center.

(3) Outputs
<Output 1>
More effective and sustainable networking and collaboration are developed among APCD, FPs, AOs and other relevant organizations.

-Indicators;
1) 7 selected FPs agree to their roles in documents by Aug. 2009.
2) 30 AOs agree to their roles in documents by Aug. 2009.
3) 30 Action Plans are prepared by Aug.2009 and 60% of the Plans are conducted together with FPs and/or AOs by 2012.
4) 3 regional networks on specific areas are developed and strengthened (Community Based Rehabilitation [CBR], Non-Handicapped Environment [NHE], Knowledge Management [KM] etc).
5) 10 regional trainings and 10 networking collaboration follow-up activities are conducted to strengthen regional networks.
6) 5 sub-regional workshops are conducted to facilitate sub-regional networking and collaboration in the Asia-Pacific region by 2012. All outputs and impacts are documented and widely shared.
7) 30 documents on good practices and useful information are developed with FPs, AOs and stakeholders, and widely shared in collaboration.
8) 60% of participants of APCD’s activities are satisfied with communication accessibility.
9) 80% of participants are satisfied with training courses.
10) 70% of ex-participants share their learning and initiate or strengthen their activities.

＜Output 2＞

The managerial and administrative capacity of APCD to sustain the internationalized activities is strengthened.

-Indicators:

1) The APCD Master Plan is approved by the APCD Foundation.
2) APCD's progress report on the Master plan is approved by the APCD Foundation.
3) An annual report to show the APCD's performance is published every year.

(4) Input（At the Time of Evaluation）

1) Japanese side

   Expert: Long Term Experts 9 persons / Short Term Experts 17 persons (gross total)
   Equipment: N/A
   Training in Japan: 18 persons (gross total)
   Local Operation Expenses: 39.2 million Bahts (general operating cost, travel cost, goods, translator/interpreter fee etc)

2) Thai side

   Counterpart: 13 persons (at the Time of Evaluation)
   Facility / equipment APCD Building and necessary equipment for the Project
   Local Operation Expense: 23 million Bahts

2. Outline of the Terminal Evaluation Team

<table>
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<th>Team members</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position / Organization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Team Leader</td>
<td></td>
<td>Takayuki Kondo</td>
<td>Division Leader, Social Security Division, Human Development Department JICA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Network of Persons with Disabilities</td>
<td>Ryosuke Matsui</td>
<td>Emeritus Professor, Hosei University</td>
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<td>Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities</td>
<td>Yukiko Nakanishi</td>
<td>Representative, Asia Disability Institute</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cooperation and Planning</td>
<td>Megushi Nishimura</td>
<td>Social Security Division, Human Development Department JICA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Leader Assistant</td>
<td>Naoto Ikeda</td>
<td>Social Security Division, Human Development Department JICA</td>
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<td>Evaluation / Analysis</td>
<td>Fujio Deguchi</td>
<td>Office-D</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Evaluation / Analysis</td>
<td>Kumiko Nishimura</td>
<td>Koei Research Institute International Corp.</td>
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Type of Evaluation: Terminal Evaluation
3. Summary of Evaluation

3-1 Performance

(1) Input
Planned inputs were made by Japanese and Thai side.

(2) Achievement of Outputs
1) Output 1: More effective and sustainable networking and collaboration are developed among APCD, FPs, AOs and other relevant organizations.
Output 1 was almost achieved: Twelve FPs and forty AOs signed the Memorandum of Understanding with APCD during the Project Phase 2. It shows the expansion of APCD’s activities. Many trainings / Workshops / Seminars were conducted at international / national / grassroots level by APCD’s facilitation. In addition to these activities, four regional networks were established and strengthened by APCD. As for capacity of APCD itself, the knowledge management skill was strengthened and fifty-seven documents and DVDs related to the activities of Persons with Disabilities as Agents of Changes were published. The method of Story-based Knowledge Management (SbKM) was adopted for making documentations, which focused on the participation of Persons with Disabilities in the documentation processes. These documents are utilized to share the unique knowledge and experience of Persons with Disabilities with other stakeholders including the government officials.

2) Output 2: The managerial and administrative capacity of APCD to sustain the internationalized activities strengthened.
Output 2 was almost achieved. Based on the recommendation of Mid-Term Review, a Master Plan was made and approved on May 3, 2011 by APCD Executive Committee. While APCD’s annual report was published in the year 2011, the progress report of the Master Plan was not submitted yet, but is being prepared.

(3) Expectation of the achievement of Project Purpose
The Terminal Evaluation Team confirmed that APCD was functioning as a regional center to promote the network among disability related organizations. During the project period, thirteen salient documents and declaration were developed, which mentioned APCD. APCD participated in the developing process of these documentation and declaration as a key stakeholder. On the other hand, the result of interview with grassroots disability related organizations, showed the high recognition of APCD among them. The indicator of the project purpose was the actual cases and its impact related to the promotion of the networking. Through APCD’s facilitation, many cases contributing the promotion of networking were found.

(4) Expectation of the Achievement of Overall Goal
Through the cooperation between APCD and the related organization in various fields, many network and collaboration activities had been conducted to promote 1) Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
and 2) the realization of inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for Persons with Disabilities. Based on the needs of the organizations of/for Persons with Disabilities, community cooperation activities had been conducted and strengthened. These activities contribute to the promotion of disability movement and inclusive development. Moreover, APCD has been planning to make collaboration with various kinds of organizations including international agencies, civil society and private sectors etc. These facts show that APCD has been progressively to achieve the overall goal.

3-2 Outline of Evaluation

(1) Relevance: High

<Policy>
Joint Evaluation Team of the Mid-Term Review conducted on Feb. 2010 evaluated that the Project was consistent with the policy of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand. The Government of the Kingdom of Thailand has emphasized the importance to address the disability issues by adopting such policies as “Plan for the Development of the Quality of Life of the Disabled No.3 2007-2011” and this direction has been and will be maintained. After the Mid-Term Review, UNCRPD has been signed or ratified by the countries in Asia-Pacific region and these countries focus on the disability issue now and future. On the other hand, The Project purpose conforms to the development strategy of both the Government of Japan and JICA, which is to promote South-to-South cooperation and to strengthen support of the socially vulnerable. The Project, therefore, is consistent with the Japanese government policy.

<Needs>
To respond the needs to enhance the capability of the staff in following up the ex-participants’ activities, the Project has provided counterpart trainings in Japan and dispatched short-term experts (on Training Management). The Project is designed to act as a mediator to facilitate networking and collaboration among Disabled people’s organizations in respond to the needs from Persons with disabilities themselves and their family members.

<Project Approach>
The expectation is high for APCD to continuously function as a regional center on disability. In response to the recommendation from the terminal evaluation at Phase 1, the Project (Phase 2) has started its activities by putting emphasis on inclusion of people with Intellectual Disability and Hearing Impairment. After a certain period of time in which the Project accumulated experiences with these two categories, it has expanded it’s field of activities, i.e. Cross-Disability.

(2) Effectiveness: High
While the achievement of project purpose and output 1 were expected in the Mid-Term Review, the team was concerned the achievement of output 2. It was confirmed by terminal evaluation team that the Project achieved the output 2 such as creating a master plan, as well as the project purpose and output 1.
(3) Efficiency: High
The Project progresses by means of the approach to meet the needs of Persons with Disabilities, including persons with disabilities as agents of changes. This approach contributes to the outputs 1 and 2. In the first half of the project period, the Project focused on the intellectual disability and hearing impairment, and dispatched the experts in these fields. After the Mid-Term Review, the Project focused on the capacity development of staff and resource persons and dispatched the training / management experts. The Project maintained a good balance to follow the recommendation of Terminal Evaluation of the Project Phase 1 and Mid-Term Review of the Project (Phase 2).

The participants of the training in Japan were selected with clear criteria and they shared their knowledge and technique, acquired in the training, with other key stakeholders of APCD. The Project budget has been provided at the right time and supported the Project activities efficiently.

(4) Impact: High; Many impact-cases were reported.
Through the activities facilitated/organized by the Project, many positive impacts, including the followings, have been observed in Asia and Pacific countries and areas:

<Effect of the APCD trainings> Many of FPs and AOs, gained skills and knowledge via training courses conducted by APCD, applied these knowledge and experiences in their own activities.
<Effect of the APCD’s facilitation> The APCD missions and the seminars in collaboration with FPs and AOs, contributed to the ratification / signing of UNCRPD in Pakistan / Papua New Guinea.
<Effect of the APCD’s documentation> Good practices of persons with disabilities as “agents of change” have been documented and published in collaboration with FPs, AOs and other stakeholders. The documentations according to knowledge management principles have been shared to promote inclusive barrier-free society not only by disability stakeholders but also by the business partners. APCD has been promoting disability movement at the policy level in collaboration with the UN agencies and other partners. APCD has become one of the vital players to promote disability rights in the region. The declarations, recommendations and statements were the result of all efforts of vital players in the regions.

APCD was selected as one of case stories of “The South-South Opportunity” in OECD and World Bank

(5) Sustainability: Sustainability was secured to some extent
1) Policy aspect
APCD has been officially identified and strengthened its function as regional center to support empowerment to create barrier free, rights based society, written in the Biwako Millennium Framework (BMF) and Biwako Plus Five for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Right-based Society in Asia and the Pacific 2003-2012. According to these documents, the first priority is given to the Greater Mekong region, the second is the ASEAN, and the third to South Asia sub-region.
2) Organization and System aspect
Under the supervision of the APCD Foundation, APCD has been developing an effective organization structure. The partnership between APCD and AOs is sustained through the information sharing and follow-up. On the other hand, most of the representatives of FPs are transferred to other departments. It sometimes results in difficulties to keep the partnership between APCD and FPs.

3) Technical aspect
APCD staffs have capacities to perform daily operations. Their high motivation and commitment contribute to APCD’s activities.

4) Financial aspect
APCD has signed the contract with the Nippon Foundation on financial support and is negotiating with other organizations. Contribution from NEP is expected to continue for a while after the project ends.

5) Relation with other disability related organizations
The role of APCD was well recognized by the UN agencies. APCD also has good cooperation relationships with ESCAP and WHO. The relationship seems to be sustained even after the project ends.

3-3 Conclusion and Recommendation
(1) Conclusion
1) The project purpose has been achieved.
APCD is functioning as a regional center on disability and development in the Asia-Pacific region. APCD facilitated to establish various networking platforms in Asia-Pacific region such as CBR Asia-Pacific Network, ASEAN Autism Network, Empowerment Café and South Asian Disability Forum.

2) Outstanding impacts are observed
As exemplified by the UNCRPD ratification in Pakistan and signature in Papua New Guinea, remarkable impacts were observed.

3) Continuous follow-up is needed
For the effective functioning of established platform, trained personnel and accumulated information resources, it is necessary to follow up continued by APCD.

(2) Recommendation
1) To strengthen international collaboration in “the new Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2013-2022)”
It is recommended that international collaboration between APCD, JICA and APCD’s FPs and AOs be strengthened further, particularly in the framework of the new Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities in partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).
2) To elaborate community-based inclusive development (CBID) activities
   It is recommended that JICA continue to collaborate with APCD and the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security further in this context in line with the needs of CBR/CBID activities which have been expanded during the Project Phase 2.

3) To facilitate Thai stakeholders to cooperate with APCD’s activities more proactively
   It is recommended that cooperation of Thai stakeholders including the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Persons with Disabilities and the business sector in Thailand be more facilitated as resource persons, advisors or project partners in order to encourage their active participation to collaborate with APCD. However, special attention should be paid to the international perspective which is APCD’s mandate.

4) To utilize the APCD facilities
   It is recommended that the APCD’s administration and training buildings be utilized more in accordance with the needs of APCD’s partners. It is also recommended that JICA’s international training on disability and development be conducted at APCD in accordance with the original objective of the grand aid provided by the Government of Japan.

5) To further promote cross-disability activities at the sub-regional and regional level
   It is recommended that persons with psycho-social disability and other disability categories be included into APCD’s activities.

3-4 Lesson Learned

(1) The expertise of JICA experts should be matched in accordance with the enhanced capacity of counterparts.

(2) Human and information resources, and regional and sub-regional networks developed in the project (both Phase 1 and Phase 2) have become important assets and are effectively utilized in the project activities.

(3) It is epoch-making that persons with intellectual disabilities were recruited as resource persons for the empowerment of self-advocate groups in Thailand, Myanmar and Cambodia, which contributed to the outstanding achievement of the Project activities.

(4) By documentation as APCD’s knowledge management activities, knowledge and experiences have been effectively accumulated and disseminated among stakeholders. Good practices with the private sector such as SM Supermalls in the Philippines, Air Asia in Malaysia and ASEAN TV enhanced the recognition of APCD regionally.

(5) APCD’s facilitation has resulted in the development of national disability policies by linking with DPOs, governments and the international agencies including ESCAP, WHO, etc.