

FOCUS SESSION 12:

Scaling Up Knowledge Sharing: Fostering Knowledge Sharing Capacity in Country Institutions

Tuesday 15 April 2014, 3:00-4:15 pm, room Diezmo 4

Speakers/Panelists:

- Armida Alisjahbana, Minister of National Development Planning, Indonesia.
- Rolandas Kriščiūnas, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lithuania.
- Wismana Adi Suryabrata, Deputy Minister for Development Funding Affairs, Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS), Indonesia.
- Juanita Olarte, Director for South-South and Triangular Cooperation, Presidential Agency of International Cooperation (APC), Colombia.
- Gabriel Ji Kwang Chul, Director for International Development Policy Division, Ministry of Strategy and Finance (MOSF), Korea.
- Paulina Rodríguez Salinas, Director of International Affairs, Oportunidades Program, Ministry of Social Development (SEDESOL), Mexico.
- Birama B. Sidibe, Vice President Operations, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)
- Commentator: Ismael Diaz Aguilera, Sub-Director of International Finance, Banco del Ahorro Nacional y Servicios Financieros (BANSEFI), Mexico
- Commentator: Mark Nelson, Learning Network on Capacity Development (LenCD)
- Moderator: Steffen Janus, Senior Operations Officer, World Bank.

The organizers (Government of Indonesia & World Bank) are very grateful for the generous and insightful contributions of these representatives.

Conclusions and key messages:

Knowledge Sharing (KS) is now fully recognized as the third leg of development cooperation, complementing technical and financial assistance. It not only is effective in supporting endogenous process of policy and institutional capacity development, but it also constitutes a powerful channel for horizontality in a multipolar world, among partners from government, civil society and companies.

With the favorable high-level backing from the GPEDC and the G20, among others, it is now high time to look into the *practical* options to scale up KS. In line with the 2012 Bali Communiqué on Country-Led Knowledge Hubs, this requires investing in the institutional and operational capacities to identify, document and share relevant development knowledge with domestic and

international peers. There are several knowledge hubs pilots underway in Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia and Nigeria, with essential early lessons on how to scale up KS.

In this dynamic context, the speakers of this focus sessions engaged in a rich and highly practical debate around how to invest in and support the development of strong KS institutions, stressing the following key aspects:

- The basic precondition of KS is the **capacity to identify, in a structured manner, relevant development solutions and validated good practices** in particular within line ministries and sector institutions. This requires building a solutions and knowledge management *culture*, as a vital contribution for these institutions to effectively fulfill their mandate at the domestic level. In this area, APC Colombia champions a criteria-based process to identify and catalogue sector-level solutions, while SEDESOL Mexico already has systematized its key experiences to be shared with national and international peers.
- **Implementing KS depends on the capacity to ‘package’ (prepare), adapt and share development solutions** in full consideration of context and shared interest. The Korean Knowledge Sharing Program (KSP) is a pioneer in this area, while Indonesia includes strong KS methodologies in a Knowledge Hub pilot around Disaster Risk Management.
- Effective KS usually entails a continuous mutual learning, which is why the **capacity to build long-term partnerships** are key. While countries such as Colombia, Indonesia, Lithuania and Mexico are experimenting with sub-regional and thematic clusters, multilateral programs (e.g. IsDB’s Reverse Linkages) can shape an enabling environment for KS partnerships, and CSOs might be key for continuity in many areas.
- While financial investments are often minimal (compared to other types of development cooperation), a core challenge of today’s KS is to strengthen the **capacity to document results and evaluate impact**, which is difficult to the non-tangible character of both inputs (i.e. solutions) and outcomes (e.g. change). Korean KSP uses case studies in this area, Indonesia follows up with ex-post meetings (including through VCs), and there is a consensus to draw on web 2.0 technologies to share KS results.
- Overall, **these capacities are best hosted in a dedicated KS institutional structure**, for which knowledge hubs are a useful reference. This debate will continue on the striving **Community of Practice hosted at knowledgehubs.org** and further deepened in the **Second High-Level Meeting on Knowledge Hubs** to be held in Seoul on 23-26 June 2014, which will be informed by dozens of case stories provided by sector institutions from governments, civil society, private sector and academia.

More on KS institutions at knowledgehubs.org and southsouth.info, and via Steffen Janus (sjanus@worldbank.org).

The results of this Focus Session are reflected in paragraphs 29 and 30 of the GPHLM Communiqué.

An extended version of the summary can be found at:

<http://www.southsouth.info/profiles/blogs/institutions-for-knowledge-sharing-mandate-gpedc>