Partners Agree to make Development Cooperation more Effective

The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group and the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) together with the institutions of the Coordination Group (CG), comprising Arab National and Regional Development Institutions, jointly organized a High Level Seminar on “Managing for Development Results” on 24th June 2014, in conjunction with the 39th Annual Meeting of IsDB in Jeddah-Saudi Arabia.

Over 200 participants attended, including Chairman of the OECD-DAC, Representatives from Mexico and the Netherlands as Co-chairs of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC), a delegation from JICA/Japan, Heads of the CG Institutions, members of the IDB Board of Executive Directors and IDB Board of Governors, and other delegations from the member countries and international organizations.

The panel of speakers deliberated on the key commitments made by the international community on effective development cooperation and the principles agreed in Busan and affirmed in Mexico. The broad Principles agreed in Busan includes country ownership, delivery of results, inclusive development involving the private sector and civil society organisations, transparency, and south-south and triangular cooperation.

The Seminar discussed these Principles from the perspective of both providers and recipients of development assistance and deliberated on the way forward in implementing the global commitments in order to make development cooperation more effective.
In essence the Seminar provided a platform for the Coordination Group Institutions, some of the DAC donors and IsDB Member Countries to have an exchange on their strategies and plans for making development cooperation more effective. The CG sets a good example in prioritising country ownership, promoting South-South cooperation and enhancing donor coordination and harmonization. The CG is also working towards greater transparency and assessing development results of its operations.

Following the discussion Cote D’Ivoire, Malaysia, and Uganda shared their experiences as partner countries about how they plan and manage the achievement of development results. They highlighted the importance of better management of the development process at the national level, knowledge and technology transfer, and south-south cooperation opportunities for capacity development and lesson learning.

Success Stories of high impact development projects and programs in various sectors in the African, Arab, and Asian regions were presented, e.g. Trans-Sahelian Highway in West Africa, Earthquake Rehabilitation and Reconstruction in Pakistan and Water Supply Scheme in Oman. These success stories highlighted the specific approaches and factors responsible for their high impact. They offered examples of the important partnerships established and the specific focus given to delivering results on the ground.

In the closing remarks, the IsDB Management reiterated its continued commitment to making its development cooperation even more effective through further strengthening of its partnerships including the CG, the OECD-DAC, the MDBs, the UN and other multilaterals and bilateral institutions, towards achieving the MDGs.

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