



Third International Roundtable Managing for Development Results

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Closing Remarks
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As a newly appointed VP, the Roundtable has afforded me an incredible opportunity to listen to such a broad cross-section of countries, donor agencies and representatives of the civil society.

Overall observations:

- The breadth of the consensus, commitment and sense of purpose
- We have gone well beyond the “why” and “what” of managing for results – the focus has been on the “how” – the practical issues of implementation
 - *For example, learning that the Moroccan team plans to apply lessons from Chile’s experience in developing its country action plan*
 - *Many of our Africa colleagues are already working to adapt China’s experience in linking monitoring and evaluation with participation at provincial and local levels*
- At this meeting the countries took centre stage. Countries across the world have clearly articulated what they need to carry out this agenda:
 - 33 countries initiated plans to strengthen their capacity to manage for results – they will be taking these home to work with development partners to put in place practical steps forward – which they will share progress in the Ghana.

(2) In looking ahead to Ghana in 2008, I’d like to make three points in terms of World Bank response

- At the **global level**, there is a clear demand for the donor community to step up its support for enhancing statistical capacity. This is truly a public good with a long-term trajectory but which often loses out to the competition amongst other development priorities. Statistics may not be regarded as sexy (although statisticians in this room would probably debate me on that) but as Ngozi said

yesterday, reliable statistics are vital to guiding rational decisions and establishing credibility.

- Building on the very real accomplishments since the launch of the Marrakech Action Plan on Statistics, and the work underway on the Accelerated Data Program in Africa, we will promote, with our partners the development of a credible plan for donor support leading up to Ghana. The Spring meetings of the WB/IMF offer a good opportunity to launch our discussions on this.
- At the **regional** level, this Roundtable has illustrated the **hunger** for and value of cross-country learning. The Asia Community of Practice is leading the way for this approach to be replicated elsewhere with donor support –
 - the launch of the Africa Communities of Practice shows the value of this regional collaboration. The donor community needs to support and facilitate this important knowledge sharing everywhere.
- But it is at the **country**, and needless to say at the **village level**, where the bulk of our efforts need to be directed and customized. With credible work programs launched here, countries now have the basis to approach their donor communities for the support they need. Going home from Hanoi, the challenge for countries will be integrating the results agenda into the line ministries and at the sub-national level.

Conclusion

In the end, we have raised the bar and raised expectations on both the countries and the donor community. For the multilateral banks and donor community, we need to “up our game”, enhancing our ability to respond and adapting to dynamic country situations.

The ultimate challenge is to achieve results on the ground – it is thus opportune that we have located this meeting in Hanoi. After all, our host country is helping us learn how to get results which translates into real improvements in the lives of people.

As someone who’s been working here for the past 15 years, it’s clear that the results are tangible. Every time I come back to Vietnam, it is like watching a movie in fast forward. Poverty has fallen from 58 percent in 1993 to less than 20 percent in 2004. Among other achievements, more than 90 percent of children are now enrolled in primary schools across the country and more than 90 percent of rural households now have electricity.

What Vietnam has shown is that clarity of purpose, broad-based consensus, willingness to adapt approaches and donor coordination and alignment are a powerful combination for achieving results. While there are clear development challenges in the future, Vietnam has laid a good foundation for facing these in their latest Socio-Economic Development Plan.

To our hosts I want to thank you and wish you a happy, healthy and peaceful new year.