



## Third International Roundtable

Managing for Development Results

5-8 February 2007, Melia Hotel Hanoi, Vietnam



# Hanoi Roundtable Ends: Road to Accra Opens

FRIDAY • 9 FEBRUARY 2007

The final session of the Third International Roundtable on Managing for Development Results was characterized by a feeling of accomplishment, a spirit of partnership, and a sense of anticipation about the upcoming Ghana High-Level Forum (HLF). President Haruhiko Kuroda of the Asian Development Bank expressed great appreciation to the Government of Vietnam for hosting the Roundtable. He said the focus on results here was not just in preparation for the Ghana HLF, but beyond, as we work together to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Richard Manning, OECD-DAC Chair, noted how far the MfDR agenda has come since the Marrakech Roundtable. He referred to a “coming of age among both partner countries and donors,” an understanding that the agenda is owned by the countries. He hoped that the Ghana meeting can replicate the features of this Roundtable: country ownership and South-South learning. “The partnership shown here is the best guarantee of success going forward.”

World Bank Vice President Jeffrey Gutman said that the Roundtable had been “an incredible opportunity to listen to a cross-section of countries, donor agencies, and civil society.” The development community has now gone well beyond the

“why” and “what” of MfDR to focus on the “how”—that is, the practical issues of implementation.

Mary Chinery-Hesse, Adviser to the President of Ghana, said that she had been impressed by the many good models of practice from around the world: “We leave

the Roundtable taking away valuable lessons.” She urged participants to apply their new knowledge in their countries and move the process forward. She added that Ghana has begun preparing for the Third High-Level Forum, even as it celebrates 50 years of independence, and she welcomed all the Roundtable participants to Ghana.



Sinh, Manning, Kuroda, Gutman, and Chinery-Hesse (l-r) applaud the accomplishments of the Roundtable.

Vietnam’s Vice Minister Cao Viet Sinh, who had opened the Roundtable, closed it by citing the accomplishments of the Roundtable and congratulating everyone on its successful outcomes. On the eve of the Lunar New Year, he wished participants a “wonderful, successful New Year.”

To participants’ enthusiastic applause, the World Bank’s Phil Hay—who had served as moderator for sessions throughout the Roundtable—pronounced the event closed and heralded the opening of the road to Accra.

## The Flavor of Results: Regional Perspectives

On the last day of the Roundtable, participants met in regional groupings to discuss their country action plans. One member of each group presented the outcome of the discussions to the Roundtable.

For *Latin America and the Caribbean*, Peru’s Roger Salhuana outlined the major achievements: progress toward results-based budgeting and planning, increased use of performance agreements and incentives, and greater participatory input into resource allocations in public budgets. The areas most urgently in need of improvement included better links between planning and budgeting, with



Salhuana, Tall, Ssentongo, Amatong, and Purdue (l-r)

more reliable information systems and better use of M&E. Regional participants also called for more resources for efforts (such as PRODEV) to help countries implement MfDR processes, more investment in integrated information technology systems for MfDR, and more training in MfDR components.

Oumoul Khayri Ba Tall of the African Evaluation Association summarized the deliberations of the *Francophone Africa* countries. Among MfDR achievements, many countries had cited better links between planning and budgeting through the use of a medium-term expenditure framework, others a framework for dialogue with civil society or a results-based national poverty reduction strategy. The improvements they look for include capacity strengthening, a decentralized M&E system, and greater accountability by ministers through annual reporting.

From the *Anglophone Africa* perspective, said Uganda’s Peter Ssentongo, achievements included sound national development strategies and plans, national M&E, and results-based budgeting systems. Key areas to be improved are national statistical systems (including incentives to use the data for decisionmaking) and the results focus in budgeting; and it is necessary to extend integrated M&E efforts to sectoral and local government levels.

From the *Asia and Pacific* perspective, said Juanita Amatong of the Philippines, promoting South-South cooperation (particularly through Communities of Practice) and internalizing the MfDR concept in the public sector (including communicating the concept to Parliamentarians and the media) are key to building public sector capacity and strengthening incentives in management systems. Statistical capacity can best be strengthened by ensuring the

autonomy of national statistical offices, developing a statistics master plan consistent with an M&E master plan, and working to strengthen subnational M&E systems.

Speaking for *donors*, ADB’s Bruce Purdue called Communities of Practice a valuable tool and a credible means to support countries. More broadly, he said, progress in MfDR will be limited until a way is found to strengthen incentives in countries and in donor agencies themselves, including by making the subject a component of performance evaluations. He concluded that the Paris Declaration provides a “comprehensive rallying point,” but it must be mainstreamed.



Participant discussion

# Voices from the Roundtable

*For you, what has been the most important or rewarding aspect of the Roundtable?*



**Pham Thi Thanh An, Vietnam**

This Roundtable signifies a wider acknowledgement of the importance of the results agenda. Among the issues I found most interesting were mainstreaming the results agenda into public sector agencies; the issue of incentives; the need to engage the highest levels of political leadership; and the need to engage citizens in holding the public sector accountable for results. Participants here shared both good and bad practices, and the donor community expressed its support for the efforts of partner countries.



**Issa Doumbia, Mali**

The Roundtable allowed me to meet many people from many countries. I represent local government, and the presence here of so many officials from national governments allowed me to learn their point of view on development.

## Marketplace Awards



**Koshy Thomas, Malaysia**

What I appreciated most was learning about the different levels of development in different countries. It would be interesting if we could classify countries in terms of their capacity, and then assist them in developing their capacity. This approach would be more than prescriptive; it would be a kind of hand-holding, matching methodologies to the needs of each specific country.



**Eric Swanson, World Bank**

For me, it was getting a polling of many countries to see what their priorities are. The discussions brought out important ideas—for example, representatives of national statistics offices reminded us that it is important not just to collect statistics, but to disseminate them. The feedback and cross-fertilization have been extraordinary.

**Hamid Jalil, Wahid Waissi, Farid Tanai, Afghanistan**



For Afghanistan this is very important for our development efforts, now that we are entering the stage of managing for results. We have begun reconstruction, and of course, we face major challenges such as security issues and regional conflict. But we thought we were the only country facing the challenges and bottlenecks of managing for development results. What this Roundtable has shown us is that we are not alone. Many other countries have dealt with the same issues, or are dealing with them, and we can learn from their experiences. The Roundtable has given us a message of confidence, which we will take to our authorities.



**Mary-Anne Addo, Ghana**

I was most struck by the Community of Practice (CoP). As soon as I heard about it, I said “Yes! This is great—it’s key!” There was such enthusiasm in the Asian CoP; they’re far ahead, but they’re willing to help us start up in Africa. Over time I hope the idea expands beyond Asia, beyond Africa, so we can keep in touch and share experience, knowledge, and advice more broadly. As I leave here I’m so energized for the upcoming Accra High-Level Forum, and I look forward to seeing many of my new friends there.



Additional information on the Roundtable is available at [www.MfDR.org](http://www.MfDR.org)

