

Simplified Ex-Post Evaluation for Technical Cooperation Project

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| Evaluator, Affiliation | Sawa Hasegawa Japan Development Service Co., Ltd. | Duration of Evaluation Study |
| Project Name | The Project on the Asian Center of International Parasite Control | January 2010 – December 2010 |

I Project Outline

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| Country Name | The Kingdom of Thailand | | | |
| Project Period | March 2000-March 2005 | | | |
| Executing Agency | Mahidol University | | | |
| Cooperation Agency in Japan | Japanese Society of Parasitology, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, National Center for Global Health and Medicine | | | |
| Total Cost | 550 million yen | | | |
| Related Projects (if any) | JICA, “The Project on the West African Centre for International Parasite Control (2004-2008)” in Ghana (Technical Cooperation Project) | | | |
| Overall Goal | Parasite control programs are strengthened by the health human resource development in the Southeast Asia. | | | |
| Project Objective | The Asian Center of International Parasite Control (ACIPAC) performs the role of an international human resource development center for parasite control activities in the region. | | | |
| Output[s] | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. School-based approach advocated by ACIPAC is accepted as an effective one to the parasite control by the region, of which core countries are Cambodia, Lao P.D.R., Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam (CLMTV). 2. Human resources for the parasite control in the region are trained by ACIPAC in its international training course incorporating model activities in Thailand. 3. Small-scale pilot projects on school-based malaria and soil-transmitted helminthiases (STH) prevention and control are implemented as a practical training in the field in CLMTV. 4. ACIPAC functions as a center for human and information network to promote interaction among personnel/agencies in the region. | | | |
| | Inputs (Japanese Side) | | Inputs (Thai Side) | |
| Experts | 7 for Long term, 23 for Short term (at the time of terminal evaluation) | Staff allocated | 52 | |
| Equipments | 85 million yen ¹ (at the time of terminal evaluation) | Equipments | Provided (the amount is unknown) | |
| Local Cost | 101 million yen (at the time of terminal evaluation) | Local Cost | 2.8 million yen (at the time of terminal evaluation) | |
| Trainees Received | 9 | Land etc provided | Project office, etc. | |
| Others | Expenses for Small Scale Pilot Projects: 13 million yen (at the time of terminal evaluation) | Others | | |

II Result of the Evaluation

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| Summary of the evaluation |
| <p>The relevance of the project is high. Although the evaluation at the time of the project completion found the achievement level of respective Project Objective and Outputs to be partly limited, they were mostly achieved afterwards, through such measures as the additional dispatch of an individual expert. The project operation was implemented largely on schedule.</p> <p>While some constraints emerged after the project in securing budget and human resources for parasite control, the skills and systems established during the project are being sustained without major problems. With the independence of Mahidol University as a public corporation, it became increasingly difficult for the university to secure budget from the Government and from the Ministry of Public Health only for parasite control, posing a challenge in financing the implementation of international training courses. The university is addressing the challenge by offering international training that also covers areas other than parasite controls, such as HIV and avian flu.</p> <p>Thus the project got the good results in terms of the relevance and efficiency during its implementation, and the effectiveness was enhanced by the follow-up activities through an individual expert dispatched after the project completion. Some challenges exist in the sustainability of the project, which are being addressed by the counterparts by themselves.</p> <p>In light of the above, this project is evaluated to be satisfactory.</p> <p><Recommendations></p> <p>Recommendation made to the Mahidol University, refers to the university’s inability to actively promote the continued implementation of international courses due to the financial constraints mentioned above. Currently, discussions are underway at the university among the members of “Partnership for Child Development (PCD), Imperial College” and the Japanese experts from this project, on the possible implementation of training on the school health approach for parasite and other diseases control in 2011. For</p> |

¹ The Japanese yen figures shown here were converted from the Thai baht amounts at the rate of 37.2 baht/100 yen, which is a rough estimate of the annual average rate (Bank of Thailand, 2004).

the sustainability and further development of the impacts of school-based parasite control activities established by the project, the university is advised to engage themselves either in active fund-raising activities to secure their own finance, or in such efforts as shown above, to continue with training courses in collaboration with international organizations and NGOs.

1 Relevance

(1) Relevance with the Development Plan of Thailand and neighboring countries

At the time of planning the project, policies and programs relating to parasite control and school health were being formulated or implemented, through “National Helminthiasis Control Program” and “National Malaria Control Program” in Thailand, through “Helminthiasis Prevention and Control Policy” in Cambodia, and through “National Intestinal Helminthiasis Prevention and Control Policies” in Laos. Although no clear policy backup was confirmed for parasite control in Myanmar and Vietnam, the establishment of an international human resource development centre for parasite control in the Southeast Asia region was welcomed in the target countries. These programs and policies remained unchanged and were supported throughout the project period. Accordingly, the project can be evaluated to have been relevant with the parasite control and school health policies of respective countries.

(2) Relevance with the Development Needs of Thailand and neighboring countries

At the time of planning the project, Malaria and Soil Transmitted Helminthiasis (STH) was widespread in CLMTV, while their prevalence and intensity differed from region to region. Another study by JICA before the implementation of the project in May to July 1999 further confirmed the necessity of establishing a base for human resource development for parasite control in Asia region. The sites for small scale pilot projects (SSPP) implemented in respective countries were selected on the basis of a situation analysis during the basic study of the project, including the prevalence and intensity of Malaria in respective countries. It is therefore fair to assess that SSPP satisfied the needs of the target groups in its project sites. The development needs identified above primarily remained unchanged, and the needs for parasite control existed throughout the project implementation. From the situations above, the project can be evaluated to have met the development needs of Thailand and other neighboring countries.

(3) Relevance with Japan’s ODA Policy

This project was planned and implemented in accordance with the “Hashimoto Initiative” proposed at the Birmingham Summit in 1998, and with the “Okinawa Infectious Diseases Initiative” announced at the Okinawa-Kyushu Summit in 2000. In addition, Japan’s “Country Assistance Program for Thailand” recognized the support to ‘social sector (health and sanitation in particular)’ and ‘regional cooperation (including promotion of South-South cooperation)’ as the priority areas of its assistance. Accordingly, the project can be evaluated to have been highly relevant with Japan’s ODA policy.

This project has been highly relevant with Thailand and neighboring countries’ development plan, development needs, as well as Japan’s ODA policy, therefore its relevance is high.

2 Effectiveness / Impact

(1) Achievement of Project Outputs and Project Objective

PDM was reviewed during the project implementation, following the mid-term evaluation of the project in June-July 2002 where the Project Objective and Outputs were partly revised. The revision contributed to better reflect the real situation and to create a more coherent PDM.

The achievement level of each Project Output is as follows.

As for Output 1, school health programs including parasite control were established in each CLMTV country, where school-based parasite control measures were implemented. The effectiveness of parasite control through school health was also agreed at the “Workshop on Global Parasite Control Initiative” in March 2004.

As for Output 2, 111 people from CLMTV and other countries participated in ACIPAC’s international training courses, where the examination results of course participants after the training improved every year. The result of the questionnaire for participants showed their high satisfaction with the course, while the level of understanding of the course differed from participants to participants, and voices were heard to request the implementation of further training (some training courses were indeed carried out, following a similar advice from an individual expert dispatched after the project completion).

As for Output 3, SSPP for school-based parasite control was implemented in each CLMTV country, where the participants of ACIPAC’s international training courses experienced the actual operations of parasite control measures in the pilot sites of respective countries. Although the impacts of the control were recognized by almost all the trainees, the participants’ improved awareness on parasite control may not owe only to the impacts generated by SSPP, since some participants’ countries were already putting in place health education including Malaria and STH. Reports were made on the project achievements by SSPP’s target pupils and communities in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, that they have acquired knowledge on parasites and came to take preventive actions. The SSPP implementation, however, saw some delay in Myanmar (the materials were created on avian flu based on those of school health created for international training after the project, following advice from an individual expert).

As for Output 4, newsletters and mail magazines were created by ACIPAC to use them as the organization’s source of information, and they were distributed to the international training course participants, to the Japanese and Thai experts, to the staff of 3 projects under Hashimoto Initiative, to donors and international organizations, and to relevant ministries in respective CLMTV countries. ACIPAC’s website was also created. Efforts were also made by ACIPAC for establishing and strengthening of human and information network, although the establishment of such networks did not go beyond the national level, and inter-country and cross-donor communication network was not sufficient (this issue was later addressed, following advice from an individual expert, by promoting cooperation with West Africa Center in Ghana and with Bangladesh, and by sending relevant messages at international conferences).

Accordingly, Output 1 can be regarded as having achieved the indicators set under it during the project period. Other Outputs with limited effects were achieved after the project completion, and after the advice made by the individual expert to conduct follow-up activities. Therefore, the achievement level of Project Outputs during the project period is evaluated as rather limited.

In terms of the achievement level of Project Objective: 1) the role of ACIPAC as a training center was recognized by relevant stakeholders through international conferences, and the “Workshop on Global Parasite Control Initiative” in 2004 recognized the primary role that ACIPAC plays in the future human resource development for parasite control in Asia region; 2) the communication network that ACIPAC had promoted covered training course participants, relevant ministries, international agencies and donors, and

NGOs of respective CLMTV countries; 3) although ACIPAC made significant efforts to disseminate information through regular issuance of newsletters, the establishment of human resource database, and through the update of website, the dissemination was not sufficient and had a room for improvement; 4) the result of the questionnaire for training participants proved that 87% of them were working in the areas related to school health and parasite control. Accordingly, the indicators set under Project Objective have been achieved to a certain level, while other parts with limited effects were achieved with additional assistances such as the cooperation with other countries and international public relations activities through the follow-up by the individual expert dispatched after the project. Therefore, the achievement level of Project Objective during the project period is evaluated as rather limited.

(2) Achievement of Overall Goal, Intended and Unintended Impacts

In terms of the achievement level of Overall Goal, the rollout of the parasite control programs has been actively promoted in Thailand. In particular, ever since the Thailand's decentralization policy has shifted the handling of parasite control to regions, programs are being implemented in the Western border area to counter filaria, malaria and intestinal parasite; in the Northeast against liver fluke; and in the South against STH. Similarly in neighboring countries, programs particularly for the control of malaria and intestinal parasites are being carried out. These facts underpin the certain contribution of the project in the achievement of Overall Goal.

Some other indirect effects of this project have also been reported as follows. Meanwhile, no negative impact on environment and other social consideration through the project has been reported so far.

- Currently, the textbooks made by the project are widely used in primary schools in Thailand. The textbooks in English and Myanmar languages are highly in demand.
- After the project completion, the teacher's manual on avian flu prevention was produced in 2007 and was distributed to primary schools within Thailand in areas where avian flu is prevalent. Training for teachers was also provided.
- After the project completion, other diseases such as HIV/AIDS were also added to the international training courses.
- This project marked a head start of JICA's regional technical cooperation, whose experiences provided useful lessons for future regional technical cooperation.
- Based on the results of SSPP implemented under the project, bilateral cooperation was started in Laos for parasite control and school health.
- Interaction between JICA projects were increased, where stakeholders from Mahidol University was delegated to "the Project on the West African Centre for International Parasite Control (WACIPAC) in Ghana."

This project has somewhat achieved its objectives, therefore its effectiveness is fair.

3 Efficiency

(1) Outputs

As mentioned in (1) of "Effectiveness / Impact," the project achieved the expected Project Outputs.

(2) Elements of Inputs

The inputs of the project are shown in "Project Outline." The project being a regional technical cooperation involving wide variety of stakeholders, cooperation between offices in respective target countries posed a challenge. Judging from the terminal evaluation of the project which analyzed that "inputs other than above had been efficiently converted to the outputs in terms of quality, quantity and timing," it is unlikely that the difficulty in communication affected the results of compiled overall achievements.

To note, while the project duration accurately followed the implementation schedule, after one year of the project completion, a long-term expert of the project had been dispatched to the Faculty of Tropical Medicine of Mahidol University for two years as an individual expert to follow up on the project. The follow-up activities are regarded as having enhanced the impact and sustainability of the project.

(3) Period of Cooperation, Project Cost

The actual period of cooperation was 5 years against planned 5 years, exactly as planned (100% of planned period). The actual project cost was 550 million yen, which could not be compared to the planned budget, due to the lack of information on the planned amount.

Although the project cost could not be compared with the planned cost, the inputs were found to be appropriate at the time of the terminal evaluation. The inputs are appropriate for producing outputs and achieving the project objective, therefore, efficiency of the project is high.

4 Sustainability

(1) Related Policy towards the Project

The Thai government's policies for parasite control remain unchanged and continue to support parasite control. Likewise, the current national development plan of "10th 5-Year National Economic and Social Development Plan (2006-2011)" continues to recognize 'the promotion of cooperation with neighboring countries and the establishment of partnership relationship' as its strategy. On the other hand, the emergence of new infectious diseases such as avian flu and other new flus urged the Thai government to shift its national priority to the control of new emerging infectious diseases, causing parasite control to face some budget and human resource constraints.

(2) Institutional and Operational Aspects of the Executing Agency

The review on the responses to the questionnaire found no major difficulty in the institutional sustainability of the executing agency. The Mahidol University continues to function well even after the project completion, with the International Unit of the Faculty of Tropical Medicine serving as a window for the implementation of international training courses.

(3) Technical Aspects of the Executing Agency

Since the instructors of Mahidol University during the project period continue to work at the same department of the university, no concerns are foreseen in terms of the sustainability of their skills.

(4) Financial Aspects of the Executing Agency

With the independence of Mahidol University as a public corporation after the project completion, it became increasingly difficult for the university to receive budget allocation from the Government and from the Ministry of Public Health, urging the university to secure financial resources by its own. Accordingly, there continues to be a shortage of own financial resources, posing a challenge to the university to financially sustain the implementation of international training courses. The university is addressing the challenge by offering international training which also covers areas other than parasite controls such as HIV and avian flu. Similarly and as mentioned in "Summary of the Evaluation," discussions are currently underway at the university among the members of "Partnership for Child Development (PCD), Imperial College" and the Japanese experts from this project, on the possible implementation of training on the school health approach for parasite and other diseases control in 2011.

(5) Continuity of Effectiveness and Impact

As mentioned in (2) of "Efficiency," a long-term expert of the project was dispatched to the Faculty of Tropical Medicine of Mahidol University after the project completion, as an individual expert to follow up on the project. As a result, the outputs which were not fully achieved during the project period were followed up, and an institutional framework was developed to disseminate the achieved outputs and strengthen the sustainability of the project.

The textbooks and manuals made by the project have been utilized until now, and no major concern has been reported on the use and management of the provided equipment. The results of SSPP carried out in respective countries were compiled and used as a reference for organizations interested in school health and parasite control. It has also been reported that the programs particularly for the control of malaria and intestinal parasites are being implemented in neighboring countries. Although the financial reasons mentioned above impose a constraint on the university's initiative to actively promote the continued implementation of training, the international training courses offered by ACIPAC are sustained, by encompassing HIV and avian flu prevention to address a wide variety of needs. ACIPAC's efforts to maintain and strengthen human and information network have also been materialized, in the form of interactions with concerned countries at university-hosted international conferences on tropical medicines including parasite-related diseases, although these conferences did not discuss only parasite control.

Some problems have been observed in the technical aspects of the executing agency, yet the agency has made utmost self-efforts to implement or examine countermeasures suitable to the change in the surrounding environment and to the trend of the times. Therefore, sustainability of the project effects is fair.