



Interoffice Memorandum

To: Ajay Chhibber
RBAP Director

Date: 24 November, 2010

From: Selva Ramachandran
Chief, North East Asia and Mekong Division

Extension: 6991

Subject: Request for Project Extension for MDG Statistics Project

File: (1) Memo from RR
(2) MDG Statistics/Gen

Equipment to complete this project effectively
Sharma

Dear Ajay,

Subsequent to the Bureau's approval of the "Capacity Building in Statistics Related to MDGs" project in DPRK in March 2010, the project started effectively in May 2010, two months later than foreseen, with the arrival of the UNOPS CTA for the project.

The project is designed to help the government publish its first "MDG Progress Report" by 31 December 2010, with the UNOPS as executing agency. Since its commencement, the project has achieved considerable progress with the completion of the selection and training of 7 national experts of the National Report Cell (NRC), who are responsible for drafting of the MDG Progress Report; the organization of the Inception Workshop to review the localized MDG goals, targets and indicators and identify the main contents of the MDG Progress Report; and the collection and analysis of statistical data, including the set up of a DevInfo database, and the elaboration of themetadata for the final reporting.

Despite substantial progress, several critical factors have hindered the progress of the projects implementation. Among other things, the delays in procurement of equipment and furniture that affected the working conditions of the National Report Cell and some technical difficulties with certain advanced functions within DevInfo.

The Report on the Progress of the Project per 30 September 2010 as well as the Monitoring and Evaluation Reports per the same date indicated that - it would be impossible to have an intensively reviewed quality report ready and published by the end of December, 2010. A Tri-partite Review Meeting on 2 November 2010 confirmed this conclusion and recommended the extension of the project with another 4 months until the end of April 2011. The total budget needed for extension is US\$ 71,280. Until the end of September 2010, US\$1.3 million had already invested in the project.

Given the current difficulties and the importance for UNDP to maintain its credibility by ensuring the quality of the report that is in line with international standards, there is a need to provide sufficient capacity and time for its drafting and reviewing as well as for the identification of the policy implications. In view of this, I strongly endorse the request and in this regard I would highly appreciate your approval of the project extension.

Approve by: A Chhibber
Ajay Chhibber, RBAP Director

Date: 24 November, 2010

CC: Jerome Sauvage, RR in DPRK