

**Minutes of the Joint Project Board Meeting of  
"Support to Innovation Policy and Technology Transfer"  
and  
"Capacity building for economic forecasting and planning at national and local levels"  
projects**

**Date:** July 6, 2011  
**Venue:** Conference room, Institute of Forecasting and Macroeconomic Research  
**Time** 14.00 – 16.00

**I. Meeting agenda:**

1. Opening speech by Mr. A. Sadikov
2. Opening speech by Mr. J. Cilliers
3. Presentation of the progress report of the "Support to Innovation Policy and Technology Transfer" project in first half of 2011 by Mr. Kh. Narmuratov
4. Discussions, questions and comments
5. Presentation of the progress report of the "Capacity building for economic forecasting and planning at national and local levels" project in first half of 2011 by Mr. Yusupov
6. Discussions, questions and comments
7. Conclusions and decisions on follow-up actions

**II. Presentations and Discussions:**

The meeting was opened by Avazbek Sadikov, Director of IFMR and National Coordinator for the two projects. Mr. Sadikov congratulated Jaco Cilliers on his new appointment thanked UNDP for the continuous support to both projects and highlighted the importance of the projects for Uzbekistan and the IFMR. Jaco Cilliers, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, welcomed the meeting participants and mentioned that the meeting objective was to review the work of projects in the first half of 2011 and plan the activities for the rest of the year. He also said that such meetings help to foresee problems, discuss issues with partners and international organizations, and should be used as a good platform for collaboration.

The meeting continued with Khamidulla Narmuratov's presentation (Project Manager of 'Support to innovation policy and technology transfer' project) who provided brief overview of the project's performance for the first half of 2011 by components highlighting the major achievements and issues. In particular:

- The NIS Assessment Report together with the set of 30 innovation indicators was revised and completed in response to comments and feedback from more than 20 ministries and agencies, key findings discussed at round-table meetings, presented in IV Innovation Fair and made available on the project website; The structure of the Concept Paper on Innovation Development was developed, widely discussed and agreed among 18 ministries and agencies;
- Training needs assessment of more than 80 industrial enterprises, regional innovation centers and local authorities was conducted and comprehensive report prepared;
- 16 trainers were trained on the methods and standards of elaboration of training modules and practical manuals covering all key stages of technology transfer;
- The structure of the draft law "On Innovation and innovation activity" and brief analytical note prepared and discussed with the Government established Expert group members;
- Mission of international consultant from Oxford Innovation was organized with the support of the British Embassy, training modules modified and workshop on technology audit conducted; Agreement was reached with World Bank on conducting 7 videoconferences on innovation

and technology commercialization issues engaging keynote speakers and consultants from worldwide;

- IV Innovation Fair was held. 14 innovation projects in the area of renewable and energy efficiency were selected by GEF Small Grants Program for partial financing;
- Founding documents and internal regulation on creation and establishing the activity of Innovation Support Fund elaborated and sent to stakeholders for feedback;

After the project highlights, Mr. Narmuratov drew the attention of the Board to the following project issues:

- The TTA functionality due to the absence of relevant personnel and lack of office equipment might jeopardize the achievement of project objectives under the second component. The project is helping the TTA by engaging young graduates and training them to become as full time staff members to TTA. The project suggested procuring additional office equipment to improve the material base of TTA;
- The requirements of GEF SGP on public dissemination of project know-how upon completion are deterring some applicants to continue with the applications for grants. It is proposed to hold continuous dialogue with the applicants and GEF SGP to find an acceptable arrangement.
- Some \$23 000 were saved thanks to mobilising additional funds from donors. It was therefore suggested to transfer this amount to the next year's budget.

The meeting continued with the questions and comments.

The NPC (Mr. Sadikov) raised the question on the timeframe and involvement of experts for the development of the Concept of Innovation Development and the draft Law on Innovation. It was suggested to expand the range of consultants participating in the development of the draft law. To this, the PM (Mr. Narmuratov) informed that the first draft of the Concept is expected to be ready in September with engagement of some 5 national experts, and finalized by the end of the year. In addition, two experienced lawyers are working on drafting the main text of the law. The project is also closely working with the government established expert group and will look into the need of engaging additional experts when required.

The Head of the Science and Technology Committee (Mr. Parpiev) pointed to the urgent need to expand the coverage of the trainings under the second component of the project by organizing additional series of trainings on innovation management for personnel of large industrial enterprises and their recently established innovation and technology transfer centers. The Board also noted rendering assistance to TTA and the necessity of increasing the number of TTOs in regions within leading organizations and specialized academic institutions. The project informed the Board that trainings were planned to be conducted systematically for both the innovation centers at the large industrial enterprises as well as in the regions involving regional innovation and technology transfer centers. It was also highlighted that the TTA – as the main implementing partner for the trainings - is expected to benefit by providing some paid training services;

With regards to the difficulties with meeting the requirements of SGP GEF for grant applications, Mr. Alexey Volkov (SGP GEF Coordinator) noted that the issue of disclosing the information on intellectual property can be easily resolved in the course of negotiations and discussions with the applicants. The Board therefore recommended that the project should work more closely to mediate the parties (including through support in filling out the required forms) into reaching mutually agreeable solutions between SGP GEF and the applicants (the authors of the innovation projects) in order to meet the targets of the project. In addition, Mr. Parpiev (Head of the Science and Technology Committee) suggested that because the Committee had a long experience of working with the majority of scientists and engineers applying for the grants, SGP GEF could

benefit by consulting with the Committee to identify the most realistic and promising innovations projects for grant financing.

Next, the meeting continued with the presentation by Kakhramon Yusupov, project manager of "Capacity building for economic forecasting and planning at national and local levels", who highlighted the targets and the results of the project for the first half of 2011:

- Analytical report on sensitivity analysis of factors of economic growth to changes in economic policy has been drafted and is at the finalization stage;
- Two large-scale quarterly nationwide surveys on indices of business climate (Doing Business) have been completed and the report on the March survey has been submitted to the Government; Seminar-training has been held jointly with IFO Institute (Germany). An agreement has been reached with IFO Institute on consultation on future business and economic surveys;
- Three monthly training modules have been delivered jointly with GIZ for the young staff of the Institute of Forecasting and Macroeconomic Research; In addition, an agreement has been reached with GIZ on joint publication of IFMR scientific journal and organization of III Forum of Economists of Uzbekistan;
- The Economic Development Strategy for Andijan region has been prepared and disseminated for an upcoming open discussion. For quality assurance purposes an international consultant from the Leontieff Center (Saint-Petersburg, Russia) provided supporting trainings and peer-review of the Strategy;
- The survey of vocational education of students and teachers in Andijan has been completed for an analytical report on the links of professional education and the Economic Development Strategy of Andijan region;

The project manager informed that the project was planning to elaborate a conceptual plan on promotion of the status of IFMR as a leading economic research center of Uzbekistan through publications, conferences, new web site, cooperation with domestic and international academic and research institutions.

It was also proposed to transfer \$24000 from 2011 budget to the following due to the earlier closure of transactions of the CO this year (due to transition to IPSAS) as well as the relatively smaller budget of the project for 2012.

Then the meeting proceeded with questions and comments.

On the issue of the efficiency of the capacity building initiatives through trainings, Ms. Sevilya Murodova (GIZ) inquired whether the progress of young trainees at the Institute was being regularly assessed. To this Mr. Kakhramon Yusupov (PM) replied that while there was no systematic approach in evaluating to what extent the trainees were capable of implementing the new knowledge and skills, each training module was rigorously tailored to the needs of IFMR departments. In addition, regular evaluation tests are conducted at the end of each training module to examine the progress of the trainees.

Mr. Akmal Akramov (Ministry of Economy) asked whether the quarterly doing business surveys assess the innovation activity of businesses too. The project manager replied that the surveys were only intended to assess four areas of business environment - tax policy, infrastructure, legislature, financial services, and thus are not suited to study the innovation activity of firms. Mr. Avaz Sadikov

(NPC) noted that the surveys are conducted on the request of the Government, and are intended to monitor progress in improving the business climate in the country in line with the Year of Small Businesses and Private Entrepreneurship.

Next, a question was by Mr. Sherzod Akbarov on the plans to implement the Development Strategy for Andijan Region. To this it was noted that the regional development strategy has been shared and agreed upon with the administration of Andijan Region. It is expected that the regional administration (hokimiyat) will develop and adopt corresponding programme with targets and indicators to monitor the progress.

### III. Conclusions and decisions on follow-up actions resulting from the Project Board meeting:

The Project on Innovation and Technology Transfer is to:

1. Finalize the first draft of the Concept on Innovation Development by October 2011. The project is to expand the number of stakeholders and experts involved into the process.
2. Expand trainings on innovation management for additional partners and beneficiaries in the regions and from among large industrial organizations. The project should also consider additional measures to increase the capacity of Technology Transfer Agency;
3. In collaboration with SGP GEF national coordinator Intensify the interactions with the grant applicants in order to increase the number of successful grant allocations for innovation projects;
4. Revise budget by transferring \$23000 to the next year's budget and undertake necessary measures in order to fully utilize the remaining budget by the end of 2011.

The Project on Capacity Building for Macroeconomic Forecasting is to:

5. Collaborate more closely with other UNDP projects such as SRPU, Budget System Reform, projects in Local Governance Unit in order to widen the impact of the outputs and provide coordinated and effective efforts of UNDP staff.
6. To ensure proper dissemination and messaging of the results of major project outputs such as the quarterly Doing Business surveys, as well the formulation and implementation of regional development strategies.
7. Revise budget by transferring \$24000 to the next year's budget and undertake necessary measures in order to fully utilize the remaining budget by the end of 2011.

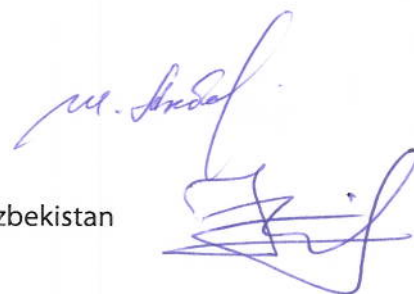


Jaco Cilliers  
Deputy Resident Representative  
UNDP Uzbekistan



Avazbek Sadikov  
Director of the Institute of Forecasting and  
Macroeconomic Research

Reviewed by: Sherzod, Akbarov, Head of EGU, UNDP Uzbekistan



Prepared by: Zarif Jumaev, Programme Coordinator, EGU, UNDP Uzbekistan



**Meeting Participants:**

*Institute of Forecasting and Macroeconomic Research*

Mr. Avazbek Sadikov, Director of the IFMR, National Project Coordinator

Mr. Sergey Chepel, Project Manager of the Institute

Mr. Jahongir Muinov, Project Manager of the Institute

Ms. Dildora Karimova, Project Manager of the Institute

Mr. David Shaulov, Project Manager of the Institute

Mr. Sharofiddin Nazarov, Project Manager of the Institute

*UNDP*

Ms. Jaco Cilliers, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative

Mr. Sherzod Akbarov, Head of UNDP Economic Governance Unit

Mr. Zarif Jumaev, UNDP Economic Governance Unit Program Coordinator

*Other Stakeholders and Beneficiaries:*

Mr. Odilhunja Parpiev, Deputy chairman of Committee for Coordination of Development of Science and Technology

Mr. Akmal Akramov, Chief of Department of Ministry of Economy

Mr. Anvar Ibragimov, A.I. Director, technology Transfer Agency

Mr. Oleg Rijichenko, Senior specialist, Chamber of Trade and Industry

Mr. Kahramon Usmanov, Chief of department, Ministry of Finance

Mr. Ahadbek Haydarov, Chief of Department, Central Bank of Uzbekistan

Mr. Jamshid Sharipov, Chief of department, State statistics Committee

Mr. Obid Khakimov, Deputy Chancellor of Westminster International University in Tashkent

*International organizations and Embassies*

Mr. Armando Diego Rivera, Economic Officer, Embassy of the USA in Uzbekistan

Mr. Bakhtiyor Mukhamadiev, Scientific Affairs Specialist, Embassy of the USA in Uzbekistan

Ms. Petra Polgar, Associate Expert, GIZ Uzbekistan

Mr. Oydin Sattarov, Consultant, GIZ Uzbekistan

Mrs. Sevilya Muradova, Coordinator, GIZ Uzbekistan

Mr. Ilhom Mirzakulov, Assistant to Head of Agency, TIKa country office in Uzbekistan

*'Support to innovation policy and technology transfer' project staff:*

Mr. Khamidulla Narmuratov, Project Manager of the "Support to Innovation Policy and Technology Transfer" project

Mr. Adham Kuchkarov, Task Manager I

Mr. Usmon Rakhimjanov, Task Manager III

Ms. Ulmas Sayfiddinov, Administrative and Finance Assistant

*'Capacity building for economic forecasting and planning at national and local levels' project staff:*

Mr. Kahramon Yusupov, Project Manager of the "Capacity building for economic forecasting and planning at national and local levels" project

Mr. Ulugbek Kamaletdinov, Regional development Specialist

Ms. Olga Tarabrina, Administrative and Finance Assistant