

**MINUTES**  
**LPAC meeting to discuss the**  
**“Support to Innovation Policy and Technology Transfer” project**

**Date:** 13 January 2010,  
**Venue:** UNDP  
**Participants:** *(as per the attached List of participants)*

**Ms. Nirody** welcomed the participants of the LPAC meeting and noted that the proposed project on “Support to Innovation Policy and Technology Transfer” is a result of a series of discussions with the Government counterparts and other stakeholders, and is based on the findings of the Initiation Plan on Technology Transfer undertaken by UNDP in January-September, 2009. It was also mentioned that within UNDP’s support to innovation processes in Uzbekistan, UNDP supported last year’s innovation fair. As a notable result of this cooperation five innovation projects were selected at the fair for financing by SGP GEF, three of which are currently at the active stage of implementation.

**Ms. Saidova** welcomed all the participants of the meeting and thanked UNDP for supporting the Government’s priorities related to innovation policy and technology transfer. It was noted that a lot still needs to be done in this area. In this regard, while the current initiative is important, she welcomed participation of other donors in addressing the issues of innovation development. In particular, the possibilities for optimization of allocation of funds for project activities within the given budget can be seen in case other donors express readiness to join their efforts in this area.

**Mr. Jumaev** presented the main activities, budget, and the composition of the project board of the project. In particular, the project duration was set for three years (2010-2012) with around USD 685000 budgeted for project activities. Those activities include support in 1) innovation policy formulation, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation; 2) strengthening the capacities of technology transfer offices; and 3) further development of financial and non-financial instruments to stimulate technology transfer and commercialization. The project contributes to the first outcome of the CPAP for 2010-2015 “Strengthened government capacity at national and local levels to improve macroeconomic forecasting, innovation, and to collect, analyze and report data in line with the Millennium Development Goals and other international standards”.

It was noted that the Institute of Forecasting and Macroeconomic Research was designated as the main implementing partner of the project, with close involvement of Ministry of Economy, Agency for Technology Transfer, and Science and Technology Committee in project implementation.

Following the presentation of the main project activities the floor was open for discussion

**World Bank (Mr. Brefort)** noted that the topic of innovation development was important to World Bank, and both intellectual and financial support were necessary. World Bank was ready to continue intellectual support in this area. In this regard, World Bank was planning a series of videoconferences in 2010 on very practical aspects of innovation policy (eg, Criteria for selecting innovation projects, Institutional issues related to technology transfer, Public-private risk sharing, Government policy for adoption of foreign technology, and Public procurement as a tool to absorb and attract foreign technology).

**GTZ (Mr. Kanal)** informed that it stood ready to share the experience it had in the area of innovation development from around 22 countries throughout the world. It was specifically noted that the interventions in this area should also reflect the needs of the private sector, which is the major driver of innovation and GTZ is ready to cooperate in this area.

**World Bank (Mr. Trushin)** also suggested contributing to the first component of the project on policy formulation through Evaluation (assessment) of Innovation Potential – a tool developed and applied by World Bank. It was also noted that there seems to be an overlap in certain areas between the suggested project and World Bank’s support in this area, which actually could be a good thing in a sense that combining funds in these areas would help scale up the efforts.


**ADB (Mr. Bozakov)** stressed the complementarities of UNDP's and ADB's projects both in this area as well as in the area of public finance reform and WIS follow-up, and expressed interest in further coordination and cooperation in those areas.

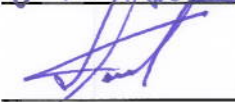
Following the discussion the LPAC participants endorsed the proposed project initiative and expressed readiness to continue closer cooperation in this area.

In conclusion, **Ms. Saidova and Ms. Nirody** thanked the participants and reiterated the need for further mobilization of resources and coordination of efforts by stakeholders in this area.

*Prepared by: Zarif Jumaev (EGU Programme Specialist)*

*Reviewed by: Sherzod Akbarov (Head of EGU)*

Approved by:  Anita Nirody, UNDP Resident Representative

Approved by:  Galina Saidova, First Deputy Minister of Economy