

**Aide Memoire**  
**Secondary Education Support Program (SESP)**  
**Joint Review Mission**  
**20-21 March 2003**

1. HMGN, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and Danida have developed the Secondary Education Sector Programme to overhaul and expand quality public secondary education. This programme complements HMG/N efforts to implement the National Plan of Action for EFA.
2. SESP is a national programme, aimed at improving as many schools as possible over as many districts as possible. The stakeholders recognise, however, that implementation across the country will need to be phased and synchronised with the building of management capacity at the school, community and district levels. It is therefore likely that SESP may not impact heavily on some districts of the country. SESP will need to target some of its interventions on only 10 districts to maximise the impact of the programme.
3. The key objectives of the joint review mission of the SESP were:
  - To review the Annual Strategic Implementation Plan (ASIP) and the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) for the fiscal year 2003/2004
  - To monitor and advice on progress towards the implementation of the SESP
  - To review issues of program implementation coherence and co-ordination
  - To address other program implementation management needs
4. The expected outputs of the joint mission were the following:
  - to agree on ASIP and AWPB for 2003/04
  - to agree on a future review modality
  - to agree on a format for progress reporting
  - to agree on issues related to coherency and coordination of the program implementation
  - to agree on a time-bound plan and how to deal with issues that relates to the financial management, coordination and monitoring of programme activities.
5. The ASIP and the AWP&B for 2003/2004 were presented as a combined strategic and operational planning document with basic and primary education.
6. Participants in the review included representatives of ADB, Danida, FCGO, AGO, as well as DOE, NCED, CDC, SEDEC and OCE. MOF and MOLD were invited but could not attend. MOES chaired the review.

**Status of programme implementation**

7. The mission was informed of the publication and dissemination of the Core Document.
8. The mission was informed on the preparations for the implementation of the programme. The preparations include processing of the conditions for ADB loan effectiveness as well as a plan for restructuring the Department of Education (DOE), and establishing Secondary Education Program Execution Board and SESP Management Committee. Further, the action plan of the Interim Program is proceeding according to plan and will be linked to the formal launch of the programme through the ASIP and the AWP&B. Finally, the mission was informed that Doti and Humla have been approved as the first two Programme Intensive Districts (PIDs).

9. A number of financial management issues were presented by DOE and discussed by the mission. It was understood that ADB and Danida agreements with the Government of Nepal present a number of difficulties for revision, such as the number of loan categories and auditing of the Danida direct funding.
10. With respect to Danida direct funding, Danida representatives expressed that the audit report from direct funding will, as usual, be distributed to MOF, AGO and MOES.
11. It was agreed that DOE examine and draft proposals for procedures involved in the advance budget release model, agreed to by the development partners in the Core Document and MOES will initiate the setting up a working group with representatives from MOF, FGCO, MOES and DOE to scrutinize this proposal and make appropriate recommendations.
12. Danida informed the mission that the agreement had been signed on 14 March 2003, and that the period of Danish support for financial reasons had been extended to 7 years. Steps will be taken to address the implications of limited availability of Danish funding, especially during the first year of SESP implementation.

#### **Annual Strategic Implementation Plan 2003/04**

13. The first draft of the Annual Strategic Implementation Plan (ASIP) and Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) for the fiscal year 2003/04 was presented to the mission.
14. The mission advised that an additional section be added to the ASIP to turn it into a strategically focused annual document encompassing preparatory activities, primarily at central level, but with the emphasis on a quick process of reaching the districts and initiate activities there from the fiscal year 2004/05.
15. The strategic focus during the course of the first year include:

##### Access

- Design of building program, with special emphasis on physical facilities for female teacher trainees and girls as well as the design of a maintenance program and cost sharing.
- Review and redesign of a scholarship/freeship program for girls and disadvantaged groups.
- Provision for special needs education, including scholarships to children in select schools.

##### Quality

- Include an assessment of SLC exams in the school year 2002/03 within the areas of curriculum and assessment and teacher education and training to prepare for the necessary and assumed consultancies<sup>1</sup>.

##### Institution

- Restructuring of institutions, especially with respect to decentralisation and subsequent design of mandates, revision of procedures and regulations as well as capacity building of staff.

16. It was noted that the programme would start as planned, but that the above areas should be given particular attention in the first year.
17. It was emphasized that retention of staff at all levels is a programme priority, as it has been agreed to in the Core Document.

---

<sup>1</sup> Annex 1

18. A holistic principle will be adhered to in order to ensure synergy with BPEP II and its possible successor. This will be reflected in the preparation of a unified ASIP and AWP&B. Progress in SESP will be reported to future missions on Basic and Primary Education.

#### **Review mechanism**

19. It was decided that biannual reviews will take place. It was also agreed that the ASIP and AWP&B are the prime-monitoring tools for the assessment of the programme. The first mission will take place in March every year and will review the ASIP and AWP&B. A second mission will take place around September to review program implementation progress, and additional documents will normally not be required for this review.

20. ADB will provide a copy of the Handbook of Project Performance Management System which will form the basis for establishing a systematic project performance monitoring system, including a format for the quarterly progress monitoring report.

#### **Principles of coordination**

21. Principles of coordination between the partners were discussed. Details are included in Annex 2.