

Aide Memoire
Fourth Review Mission
Secondary Education Support Programme
(SESP)
3-6 May 2005

1. The Secondary Education Support Programme (SESP) was launched in August 2003, and has accomplished the comprehensive interim project in preparation for full-fledged implementation of the programme.
2. Representatives from the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) of His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMG/N), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Denmark carried out the fourth Joint Review Mission of the SESP in Kathmandu from 3-6 May 2005. The MoES organised and chaired the review proceedings. The list of participants is attached in Annex A.
3. The fourth Joint Review Mission succeeded the Education for All (EFA) review. Support for secondary education is connected with EFA and is seen in this broader policy context.
4. The programme of the mission included meetings between the partners at MoES and Department of Education (DoE). It also included a field visit to the district of Rupandehi. A brief field visit report is attached as Annex B.
5. This Aide Memoire is based on and connected with the Aide Memoire of the Third SESP Review in December 2005. It was drafted and agreed to by the three partners to SESP.

Education in conflict

6. The review adopted the considerations on the conflict, as expressed in the Aide Memoire on the preceding EFA 04-09 review.
7. A proposal addressing conflict mitigation was presented. A revised proposal with budget allocation will be forwarded for consideration immediately after the review.

ASIP 05/06

8. The presentation of the ASIP 05/06 for secondary education was brief but thorough. An indicative budget ceiling for the ASIP and AWP&B 2005/06 of \$20.6 million was tabled and endorsed.
9. It was noted that because of time limitations some of the budget items could not be addressed. Issues relating to these items will be identified and discussed in the SESP monthly meeting.
10. Taking options available into consideration, the budget for the ASIP 05/06 will be recalculated and presented at a SESP monthly meeting. This would include an updated pricing of the Security Printing Press.

Programme Progress

11. The development partners agreed to consider the MoES proposal regarding the need for re-allocating resources for additional classroom construction in PIDs and learning materials for schools and free textbooks for disadvantaged students in the year 2005/06. It was agreed that MoES will come up with a concrete proposal with justification for the new activities immediately after the review.
12. The flexibility of programme implementation as defined by the Core Document specifications will be retained. A long-term budget forecast, defining the foreseeable percentage balance between components will be prepared and presented to the partners as part of the preparation for the Mid-Term Review (MTR).
13. The draft “Institutional Capacity Development Plan” of the National Centre for Educational Development (NCED) was welcomed, especially with regard to the plan being developed by NCED staff themselves. It is expected that implementation of the plan will bring NCED to a high standard of professionalism. The key strategies are institutional linkages, capacity building of a “critical mass” of trained staff at all levels of the NCED system, and utilisation of existing facilities at central and decentralised levels. A link will need to be made with regard to the involvement of NCED certified trainers and use of local facilities in training programs conducted by DoE and other providers, e.g. short orientation sessions for SMCs. An operational, concise and costed plan should be prepared to reflect the essence of the capacity development plan.
14. Letters of authorisation will be required for granting for utilisation of Education Training Centre Bs (ETC-B) - former Secondary Education Development Units (SEDUs).
15. The new curriculum framework, prepared by Curriculum Development Centre (CDC) was found to be in accordance with the outline of the SESP Core Document. The CDC has a sequenced plan to connect future curriculum changes with the textbook revisions. TA inputs will be provided with regard to the development of school based assessment. The possibility of linking existing secondary education reforms with Higher Secondary Education was mentioned. The linkage between these development and teacher education will be established.
16. The scholarship program relating to secondary education was presented and linked to hostels for girls in remote districts. The purpose of the latter is to provide access for girls to further education, including higher secondary with education stream.
17. The School Leaving Certificate (SLC) study presentation clearly showed the multiple factors, influencing the quality of education and the efficiency of the examination system. The results of this major study, including a reform plan, are expected to be available by the end of July 2005.
18. DoE reported that preparation activities for execution of civil works require more resources and time than originally anticipated. However, the DoE’s Physical Service Section maintains that the targets will be met over the programme period.

19. A series of bottlenecks for implementation were highlighted. One of these was the concept of “intensive” as part of Program Intensive District (PID) initiative. This would need to be clearly defined.
20. The proposed activity plan was considered. It was agreed that the major shifts in the program will need to be taken up at a later stage, possible at the time of the Mid-Term Review (MTR). It was further agreed that all changes will need to be justified and planned before they can be considered.
21. The general applicability of constructions based on BPEP II drawings will need to be reviewed and connected to design of schools that are more closely adapted to local circumstances.
22. The absence of decentralisation of physical services was reported as a serious bottleneck for speeding up implementation. It was agreed that guidelines for decentralising all aspects related to district and sub-district construction (safety/quality balanced with local influence, authority and participation) should be developed and implemented with effect from the fiscal year 2005/06. Please refer to the field visit report for details.
23. NCED requested that priorities concerning establishment of five regional ICT centres and establishment of training facilities for teachers be maintained in the AWP&B.

Monitoring

24. Monitoring will be strengthened, involving a mechanism for independent verification of activities, disbursement and funds utilisation, especially at local and school level. To this direction, a proposal for implementation will be developed.

Auditing

25. The Audit Report was supplied but not discussed. This will be referred to the SESP monthly meeting.

Mid-term Review 2006 – towards a sectoral approach

26. DoE presented a series of considerations for the possible content of the SESP MTR in 2006. It was recommended that the drafting of a terms of reference for the MTR, focusing on a review of the design of the programme, would reflect these considerations.
27. MoES was requested to forward a letter to the development partners, indicating issues to be considered during the MTR.
28. The preparation of the MTR should aim to assess the feasibility of bringing a range of changes into programme implementation and financing modalities, including possibilities of moving towards a more broadly defined sector approach.
29. The MoES was urged to fully utilise the TA made available for finalising the plan for the “School Sector Approach”.

30. It was agreed that preparations for the MTR will be undertaken jointly by MoES, ADB and Danida. Tentatively, the MTR is scheduled for February 2006.

Outstanding issues

31. These are specified in the preceding Aide Memoire. It is recommended that reference is made to that Aide Memoire with a view to addressing these issues in the context of the SESP monthly meetings.

Next steps

32. It should be noted some of the issues mentioned in this Aide Memoire will require immediate action to ensure that they can be included in the budget for the fiscal year 05/06.

33. The presentation will take place before the budget is submitted to the National Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance.

34. It was reiterated that all documents will be forwarded to partners simultaneously.

35. The next SESP review is scheduled to take place in Kathmandu immediately before the EFA mission. The review will be connected with the EFA review.

36. The review Terms of Reference and review programme will be forwarded to partners no later than two weeks before the review. Drafts of supporting documents for mission deliberations will be presented to the SESP monthly meeting in October 2005 and final versions forwarded to partners 10 days before the review starts.