

Outcomes

East & South-East Asia

Consultations on the
High Level Forum on
Aid Effectiveness

Bangkok, 21–22 April 2008



For further information on the 3rd High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF3) please visit www.accralf.net.

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For further information on UNDP's programming on aid effectiveness in Asia and the Pacific region please contact Aidan.Cox@undp.org or Tom.Beloe@undp.org.

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A diversity of views was heard at the consultations and the report reflects this diversity – this is not a consensus document.

The consultations in Bangkok have been made possible with the support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), UK Department for International Development (DFID), the European Commission (EC), the Government of Japan, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the World Bank.



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Executive Summary

1. The East and South-East Asia HLF Consultation had a two-fold objective:

- to support partner countries in preparing for the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-3); and
- to ensure that the East & South-East Asian voices genuinely contribute to the design and outcome of the Accra High Level Forum.

2. The Consultation sought to achieve these objectives by bringing together nine countries from the region – Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam – including senior officials came from across the breadth of government, spanning central policy ministries (such as Finance, Planning and Foreign Affairs) as well as line ministries charged with delivering results at sector level (Education, Agriculture and Forestry); donor focal points (acting as representatives for the in-country donor community) and representatives from civil society organisations from Indonesia, Philippines and Viet Nam.

3. Participants were made aware of the range of meetings and preparations in the lead up to HLF-3 and asked that organisers make every effort to ensure continuity of representation of government officials in these meetings to demonstrate systematic inclusion of the sub-region in HLF-3 preparations as well as to facilitate greater ownership of HLF-3. Governments in the region were urged to be vocal and forthright in conveying their messages for Accra and the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) at these events, or opportunities to influence would be lost.

4. In-country consultations and preparations were seen a prerequisite for the AAA to be successfully

agreed in Accra. Indonesia, Laos, and Viet Nam, among others, have already consulted in their capitals. Future country consultations ideally would involve Ministers, so that countries in East & South-East Asia can provide formal feedback to the AAA Consensus Group on the draft AAA (visit www.accrahlfn.net).

5. The Contact Group, led by KY Amoako in his advisory capacity to the Government of Ghana, was recognised as an initiative available to the region to leverage their voices at the international level. Viet Nam and Cambodia, through discussion with

the Government of Ghana, informed participants that they meet with Sri Lanka (the Asia countries on the Contact Group) and draw from the four Asia-Pacific Consultation outputs to contribute to the drafting of the AAA. These governments will work with UNDP Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific to ensure govern-

ments in the region are kept involved in the key next steps in preparing for Accra and drafting the AAA.

6. Representatives of those leading work on the “cross-cutting” issues emphasised the importance of including in consultations those actors with a mandate for promoting aid effectiveness in the areas of gender equality, human rights, HIV and AIDS, and environment and ensure that key commitments on strengthening these dimensions of development are included in the AAA.

7. Partner countries repeatedly stressed that Accra must not become another ‘talking shop’. Accra must not be allowed to become another donor-centred and donor-driven process, but must listen to and act upon partner country needs and priorities.

Governments in the region were urged to be vocal and forthright in conveying their messages

8. Participants found it difficult to relate the Draft AAA to their country experience and were cautious in giving their inputs, noting the need for their Ministers to be involved before definitive comments can be made. Some requested that the AAA focus more explicitly on the six partner country priorities identified during previous consultations (untying, conditionality, predictability, division of labour, incentives, and capacity development). Participants argued that the current AAA text was insufficiently clear and direct: why, for example, write ‘supply-driven’ when what is really meant is ‘donor-driven’?

9. Participants felt the balance between recipient and donor government commitments was not yet right – particularly in relation to the topics of mutual accountability and ownership. The nine Round Table (RT) working group discussions underscored that countries in the region have a number of experiences that they are willing to share and which could help advance the agenda of aid effectiveness at the HLF-3. These are captured in Annex 2.

10. Participating governments from the region were keen to know more about how they could offer to serve as panellists or key note speakers at the HLF. Country delegations interacted directly with six of the nine RT Co-Chairs which were present, giving, and the organising committee said it would be willing to work with RT Co-Chairs to identify further panellists from Asia-Pacific. The organising committee is also willing to support governments in the region develop case studies for the HLF-3.

11. Alongside the many specific country contributions made during the RT working group discussions, Viet Nam initiated discussion with governments over the development of a joint position paper

on Mutual Accountability – which would extract lessons from across Lao PDR, Cambodia and Viet Nam. Participants agreed that this was a genuinely country-led initiative which would be a unique contribution to the HLF-3 given the emphasis on donor-led studies to-date. UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok is willing to help facilitate this or other country-driven analytical contributions to the HLF.

12. The Asian Development Bank highlighted that it will develop an Asia-Pacific perspectives paper that brings together the key points from the four sub-regional consultations in the Asia-Pacific region, and table this at the Accra HLF.

13. Country colleagues provided detailed feedback on the East & South-East Asia HLF Consultation and indicated they were very satisfied overall with the quality of the workshop. Participants stated that the consultation had provided “new knowledge that will make it easier to deal with donors”, and that the exchange among countries had provided “guidance on preparing our own agendas and roadmap” and will “help in localising the Paris Declaration”. Participants welcomed “so much space for partner countries”, “good to have CSO present, especially those working on cross-cutting issues”, “excellent organisation... and support to delegates”, “chairing by partner countries is a great initiative”, “excellent presentations from partner countries on Paris Survey and Evaluation”. Participants made invaluable recommendations for strengthening the workshop approach for South Asia and Central & West Asia, including: “more time to break the ice... to get to know people and their background/speciality”, and at the start “an initial discussion/acknowledgement of problems is needed... so we can all move on and focus on actions” (see also Annex 3 for full summary).

Countries in the region have a number of experiences that they are willing to share

1 | Introduction



14. The East and South-East Asia HLF Consultation had a two-fold objective:

- to support partner countries in preparing for the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-3); and
- to ensure that the East & South-East Asian voices genuinely contribute to the design and outcome of the Accra High Level Forum.

15. The Consultation sought to achieve these objectives by bringing together the critical actors with knowledge and influence on aid effectiveness from within the region and internationally. The nine countries from the region – Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam – were represented by a diverse array of colleagues:

- Senior officials came from across the breadth of government, spanning central policy ministries (such as Finance, Planning and Foreign Affairs) as well as line ministries charged with delivering results at sector level (Education, Agriculture and Forestry).
- Donor focal points from each country briefed to share the perspectives of a broader range of donors and share back with them on their return the consultation's outcomes.
- Representatives from civil society organisations from Indonesia, Philippines and Viet Nam.

16. The hosts of the Accra High Level Forum, Ghana, were represented by the Minister of State of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning Dr. Anthony Akoto Osei, and Ms. Mary-Anne Addo, Director, External Resource Mobilisation. Dr Osei and Ms Mary-Anne Addo extended a personal invitation and looked forward to welcome each of the country's delegations to Accra in September. Six of the Nine HLF Round Table Co-Chairs also attended

and were able to both brief and listen to the priorities and recommendations from the region.

17. The organising committee provided support, and included the Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Commission (EC), Government of Japan, OECD Development Cooperation Department (OECD DCD), the UK Department for International Development (DFID), UNDP and the World Bank. Several donors with regional offices attended as observers, including AusAID, NZAID and USAID.

18. The East and South-East Asia HLF Consultation was the second regionally-based consultation ahead of Accra (it followed the Pacific consultations held in Fiji from 4–7 April). It is followed by the upcoming African Consultation (Kigali 29–30 April), the South Asia Consultation (5–6 May) and Central & West Asia HLF Consultation (8–9 May), and consultations planned for Latin America & the Caribbean, and the Middle East.

19. The regionally-based consultations are complemented by workshops organised around the nine Round Table

topics, and discussions attached to existing events such as the annual meetings of the African and Asian Development Banks.

20. This Outcomes Document summarises “essential facts” on the High Level Forum, which will support and inform further country level preparations. Secondly, the Outcomes Document conveys *headline messages* from East & South-East Asia to those preparing the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) and the Co-Chairs of the 9 Round Tables. More detailed feedback on the AAA is set out in Annex 1, and Annex 2 provides one page summaries for each Round Table.

The hosts of the Accra High Level Forum, Ghana, were represented



2 | Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness: process & event

21. This year, from 2–4 September, ministers, heads of development agencies, representatives from global funds, emerging economies and civil society organizations from around the world will gather in Accra for the *Third High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness*. Their common objective is to identify concrete actions that will accelerate and deepen implementation of the Paris Declaration, endorsed in March 2005, which laid down a practical and action-oriented roadmap to improve the quality of aid and its impact on development.

HLF-3: An Opportunity to Engage

22. HLF-3 provides a unique opportunity for partner countries and other stakeholders to influence the highest levels of governments and organisations, and reinforce networks for mutual learning and sharing of experiences. Over 800 delegates

will take part in the Accra HLF, including ministers and senior officials from over 150 countries, heads of multilateral institutions and representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs). The HLF is organised in three tiers:

HLF Tier 1: Nine Round Tables

23. The Round Tables provide for in-depth discussion on nine topics. What are the bottlenecks? What actions can we (partner and donor governments) take to remove them and boost aid's contribution to the Millennium Development Goals? Preparations around each Round Table can influence the AAA drafting process, and also have value in their own right – shaping the aid effectiveness agenda over the longer run, beyond Accra and towards HLF4 in 2011. The nine Round Table are shown in Box 1.

Box 1: 9 Round Tables at Accra High Level Forum

1. Country ownership
2. Alignment: use of country systems, untying aid, aid predictability
3. Harmonization: rationalising aid delivery, complementarity, division of labour
4. Managing for results and development impact
5. Mutual Accountability
6. The role of civil society organisations in advancing aid effectiveness
7. Aid effectiveness in fragile states and conflict situations
8. Sector application of the Paris Declaration: health, education, infrastructure
9. Implications of the new aid architecture for aid effectiveness: South-South partners, vertical funds

HLF Tier 2: The Accra Agenda for Action

24. On the final day in Accra, heads of agencies, senior officials and Ministers will negotiate and endorse the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) which will highlight a small set of politically appealing, high impact actions for both donors and partner governments to take in advancing progress towards the Paris Declaration commitments and targets.

25. During the East & South-East Asia consultations, Minister Osei of the Government of Ghana, host of HLF-3, reiterated his government's commitment to supporting HLF-3 to deliver substantive outcomes on aid effectiveness through the AAA. He emphasized that the event in Ghana was not only for Africa, but for all regions of the world. It was important that all voices were heard and reflected in the AAA and outcomes of the HLF-3. Brenda Killen, Head of Aid Effectiveness Division, OECD DCD, presented the process for finalising the draft AAA. Participants had an opportunity to discuss the AAA during the consultation meeting, but also to contribute directly by emailing comments on the 18 March draft to aaa@accrahlfn.net. Comments

The Accra Agenda for Action will highlight a small set of politically appealing, high impact actions

need to be received before 27 May so as to contribute to the revised draft (12 June) and the final draft (20 July). All versions will be accessible at www.accrahlfn.net

26. The AAA Consensus Group will lead the drafting of the AAA. It includes all members of

HLF-3 Steering Committee, the Chair of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee, and four representatives from Ghana's partner country Contact Group. Minister Osei explained that the Contact Group, comprising of 15 governments countries from all various regions, has been established to inform and influence the final drafting of the AAA. It includes Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam from Asia.

HLF Tier 3: Market Place

27. Accra includes a "marketplace", which runs in parallel to the Round Tables and AAA sessions, and allows all stakeholders to showcase and share knowledge, ideas and good practices. Participants can submit their materials by writing to: secretariat@accrahlfn.net.



3 | Messages and Feedback from East & South-East Asia

(i) Effective Consultation and Preparation for the HLF are Critical to its Success

28. During the East & South-East Asia Consultation, participants learned more about the many events and meetings preparing for Accra – such as the Capacity Development Meeting in Bonn (May) and the Ownership workshop in Colombia (June). Governments stated that some continuity in representation from the sub-region was essential to maximise their effectiveness. Bruce Purdue, Head of the Results Management Unit of the ADB, urged governments in the region to be vocal and forthright in conveying their messages for Accra and the AAA, or opportunities to influence would be lost.

29. In-country consultations and preparations were seen a prerequisite for the AAA to be successfully agreed in Accra. Indonesia, Laos, and Viet Nam, among others, have already consulted in their capitals. Future country consultations ideally would involve Ministers, so that countries in East & South-East Asia can provide formal feedback to the AAA Consensus Group on the draft AAA – as Sri Lanka has already done (visit www.accrahlf.net).

30. Delegates noted the need to convey what occurred at the Consultation to their colleagues and networks at country level who had not been able to attend. This was seen as one key way to reach out across the region and help countries prepare for HLF-3.

31. While international meetings such as the HLF are essential in crafting a global consensus on aid effectiveness, and can improve the parameters at country level relating to predictability, tying and

incentives, for example, it is at the partner country level that we will – or will not – change how we do business, and where actions have the greatest potential to lock in better development results. And here, at the local level, it is often about personalities – and success or failure can be attributed to the enthusiasm or apathy of individuals in key positions – a country representative, a Minister, a departmental head, a program manager... So, this is a political challenge for all of us at the local level.

32. The Contact Group, led by KY Amoako in his advisory capacity to the Government of Ghana, was recognised as an initiative available to the region to leverage their voices at the international

level. Viet Nam and Cambodia, through discussion with the Government of Ghana, informed participants that they would work with Sri Lanka as part of the Contact group. They will meet in Bangkok, and draw upon the many inputs from this South-East Asian Consultation to contribute to the drafting of the AAA, including through the global meeting of the Contact

Group later in May. With support from UNDP's Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific and other members of the organising committee, these governments will seek to ensure governments in the region are kept involved in the key next steps in preparing for Accra and updated on the contribution of the Contact Group to the AAA.

33. Representatives of those leading work on the “cross-cutting” issues emphasised the importance of including in consultations those actors with a mandate for promoting aid effectiveness in the areas of gender equality, human rights, HIV and AIDS, and environment. They asked that the consultation meetings at national, regional and global levels include discussion to ensure that the HLF-3

It is at the partner country level that we will – or will not – change how we do business

genuinely mainstreams the cross-cutting issues into its programme of action.

34. Capacity development was emphasised by participants time and again over the two days and highlighted as a key constraint to delivering results. It was recognised that donors also had capacity deficits, particularly in aid effectiveness, and needed to develop new skills. Participants were invited to join the Community of Practice in Managing for Results which has capacity development as its thrust. Please visit <http://cop-mfdr.adb.org>

(ii) Strengthening the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA)

35. Partner countries repeatedly stressed that Accra must not become another ‘talking shop’. Accra must not be allowed to become another donor-centred and donor-driven process, but must listen to and act upon partner country needs and priorities. Participants supported the Government of Ghana’s intent to make this meeting count in terms of real acceleration of progress in achieving development results. The final agreement at Accra is not an end in itself, but a stepping stone to forging a true partnership to remedy weaknesses in the current systems, and make development aid effective.

36. Participants found it difficult to relate the Draft AAA to their country experience and were cautious in giving their inputs, noting the need for their Ministers to be involved before definitive comments can be made. Some requested that the AAA focus more explicitly on the six partner country priorities identified during previous consultations.

37. The final AAA should use clear and simple language, contain specific actions and responsibilities for donors and partner countries, and should reflect the six priorities identified by partner countries (untying, conditionality, predictability, division of labour, incentives, and capacity development). Participants argued that the current AAA text was insufficiently clear and direct: why, for example,

Leadership, good governance, transparency and accountability are crucial factors for strengthening ownership.

write ‘supply-driven’ when what is really meant is ‘donor-driven’?

38. Participants felt the balance between recipient and donor government commitments was not yet right – particularly in relation to the topics of mutual accountability and owner-

ship. Participants felt they need to discuss the AAA in much greater depth in their own countries in order to build up genuine ownership of the HLF-3 – this was a vital part of the process given the objective of deeper and more genuine ownership at the country level of the Paris Declaration.

39. Countries recognised the important contribution being made by Non-DAC donors and the need to work together on a common platform led by partner countries.

40. Below are some headline messages regarding the five Paris Declaration Principles, which currently frame the AAA document (see Annex 1 for more detail).

Ownership

41. Leadership, good governance, transparency and accountability are crucial factors for strengthening ownership.

42. Donors have not committed much in terms of reducing conditionality and the emphasis seems to be shifting from a reduction in conditionality to redesigning conditionality. Donors distort democracy building through over-imposing conditionality.

43. The continued practice of tied aid undermines ownership. The issue of tied aid can generally not be tackled at country level. Governments and donors have to deliver aid on mutual understanding. Donors must have the political will to address it themselves at their HQ levels.

44. Donors distort capacity building through over-use of international technical assistance.

45. Technical cooperation is essential for capacity development but needs to be well-coordinated and aligned to partner country's strategy.

46. Partner countries need to develop coherent capacity development plans across sectors and levels of government and to make this the basis for demand-driven technical assistance.

47. The localization of the Paris Declaration through national declarations and/or action plans addressing key Paris Declaration targets has strengthened ownership of the aid effectiveness agenda in the region (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam), and more countries, such as Indonesia, are planning to localise. These are excellent examples for the HLF-3 of aid effectiveness in action.

Alignment

48. There is a need to recognise that partner country financial planning systems can best be strengthened by channelling donor funds through them.

49. All donors should make the basic commitment to synchronise with partner countries' financial planning cycles (financial year, multi-year plans, etc.).

50. Partner countries gave examples of implementing improvements in national systems that, when achieved, resulted in donors "moving the goal posts". Governments and donors need to agree on a standard for Public Financial Management and procurement systems – that, when met, development partners will actually use.

51. Effective planning and delivery of results requires a core level of predictability: donors must commit to move to longer planning timeframes (e.g. three years), and speed up process of approving and disbursing funds.

52. The Asia region offers many examples of country owned systems to track and manage ODA (eg Cambodia, Indonesia (Aceh), and Viet Nam). Partner countries and donors should commit to develop

and make use of national ODA Aid Management Systems to record and manage all funds. This is a prerequisite for aligning ODA with national priorities and getting more aid on budget.

53. Increasing use of direct budget support helps align with partner country systems.

54. Country analytical work should be available to all through a common information sharing platform: donors and governments need to commit to developing these platforms.

Harmonisation

55. Donors are interested in harmonising – but 'on their own terms'. They should commit to harmonising on partner governments' terms. Partner governments also need to ensure that priorities set out in national plans are translated into frameworks for complementarity and division of labour amongst donors.

56. More work is needed to understand how division of labour can be operationalised effectively – uniform approaches will not work.

57. Harmonisation should not undermine the diversity of aid available for partner countries.

58. Inequalities in government-donor relations can make it difficult for Governments to determine the comparative advantage of donors.

59. Increased use of Programme Based Approach (PBA) modalities can foster harmonization.

60. The approaches to harmonisation need to pay attention to diverse actors in the changing aid architecture.

Managing for Results

61. Results-based decision making processes apply as much to external aid as they do to the management of domestic resources.

Financial planning systems can best be strengthened by channelling donor funds through them

62. Political leadership, good governance, and capacity for managing results are essential, particularly for effective delivery of services to people.

63. The whole aid effectiveness agenda had become too technocratic, and donors (and partner governments) should not lose sight of the purpose – promoting better actual development outcomes.

64. Capacity development and sustainability issues are key in results management. A good practice example of peer to peer learning (for example between Afghanistan and Malaysia) is through the Community of Practice initiative supported by Asian Development Bank.

65. Donors and partners need to identify *incentives* that are required to improve the results culture.

66. The Accra Agenda for Action must address poverty, gender, and delivery of services – if it is to generate tangible results and improvements in people's lives.

67. Predictability of aid is closely related to the achievement of results and the MfDR agenda.

68. Networking and knowledge management on how to monitor and evaluate well are important, and south-south collaboration can make a significant contribution to this.

Mutual Accountability

69. There is no agreed definition of mutual accountability, and partner countries asked for greater clarity to ensure better understanding on this issue, but in simple (and not complex) language, which makes sense at the country level.

70. Participants expressed concern that the mutual accountability pillar of the Paris Declaration was unique in placing obligations on one party only – Indicator 12 should be refined to recognise the obligations on *both* governments and donors if mutual accountability is to be meaningful.

71. East & South-East Asia offers good examples of mechanisms for monitoring reciprocal performance of governments and donors against aid effectiveness commitments (eg independent monitoring mechanism in Viet Nam, Country Action Plans in Cambodia and Laos). Viet Nam discussed with Laos and Cambodia plans to develop a joint government position paper on mutual accountability as a contribution from the sub-region to Accra.

Donors and partners need to identify incentives that are required to improve the results culture

72. Participants underscored that exercising mutual accountability itself demands that key capacities are in place. These range from leadership skills to budget and planning capacity at sector level. “Softer” aspects, such as human resource capacities, must be addressed – not only systems.

73. Country participants asked that donors report all ODA provided (using national systems), including ODA delivered to non-governmental agencies.

74. Clarification is needed in how principles, such as mutual accountability, might be applied to non-DAC donors, which are of growing importance in the region.

75. CSOs have important perspectives to share in promoting mutual accountability, and these views should be taken into account in the consultation processing running up to the Accra High Level Forum. Ways of establishing a well-balanced “tri-partite” relationship of accountability between government, civil society and the “people” should be explored.

(iii) Messages from South-East Asia for the Accra Round Tables

76. The Bangkok consultation offered Government delegations an opportunity to: (i) influence the issues that will be discussed at the Accra Round Tables; and (ii) to share their own experiences, to present case studies, to offer examples of good practice and innovation; and (iii) to influence the commitments and contribute to the announcements that will be made at the HLF-3.

77. The nine Round Table (RT) working group discussions underscored that countries in the region have a number of experiences that they are willing to share and which could help advance the agenda of aid effectiveness at the HLF-3. These are captured in Annex 2.

78. Participating governments from the region were keen to know more about how they could offer to serve as panellists or key note speakers at the HLF. Country delegations interacted directly with six of the nine RT Co-Chairs which were present, giving, and the organising committee said it would be willing to work with RT Co-Chairs to identify further panellists from Asia-Pacific. The organising committee is also willing to support governments in the region develop case studies for the HLF-3.

79. Alongside the many specific country contributions made during the RT working group discussions, Viet Nam initiated discussion with governments over the development of a joint position paper on Mutual Accountability – which would extract lessons from across Lao PDR, Cambodia and Viet Nam. Participants agreed that this was a genuinely country-led initiative which would be a unique contribution to the HLF-3 given the emphasis on donor-led studies to-date. UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok is willing to help facilitate this or other country-driven analytical contributions to the HLF.

80. The preparatory process (of meetings, analytical work, country studies) differs for each of the Round Tables. More information will become available at www.AccraHLF.net. Policy and research documents on each of the nine Round Tables can be found at www.AidEffectiveness.org.

(iv) Using Evidence for Action: the 2008 Survey on Aid Effectiveness and the Paris Declaration Evaluation

81. A review of the 2008 Survey on Monitoring the Paris Declaration revealed a number of common themes for the South-East Asian countries of Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam.

- Cambodia provides an excellent example of a country that has developed a national system for managing ODA flows and integrated within it the Paris Declaration indicators. As a result, Cambodia's development partners did not need to complete the DAC survey forms, and the survey results were seen as more reliable. Aid Information Management Systems were seen as valuable instruments for promoting aid effectiveness as long as they were integrated into national business processes (of governments and donors), including planning and budgeting.
- The Paris Declaration indicators do not always mesh with country priorities; their localisation and adaptation at country level is important for ensuring policy relevance.
- Comparison of data across countries and within countries across years can be problematic, and the real value of the survey data is as evidence to help clarify priority areas for action on aid effectiveness at country level.
- The short time frame given to complete the survey was particularly challenging for countries undertaking the survey for the first time and made it more difficult to reap longer term benefits in institutionalising of dialogue on aid effectiveness,

Country delegations interacted directly with the RT Co-Chairs



Annex 1 | Comments on Draft Accra Agenda for Action

The following represents the comments of the participants of the workshops on the AAA from East and South-East Asia.

#	TOPICS	COMMENTS/PROPOSALS/ACTIONS
PREAMBLE		
1	Opening statement	
2	Aid architecture/Cross-cutting issues	
3	Recognising the role of a broader range of development actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger statement on what South-South cooperation means in effective aid. Need to recognise more strongly the importance of S-S cooperation.
4	Meeting objectives/Call for action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The language is too optimistic: stronger emphasis needed on improving our performance.
5	Recognising Doha FfD/G8/MDG Call for Action etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important to show strong linkages to MDGs in order to avoid aid effectiveness being seen as an end in itself: Accra is about development results and development effectiveness.
	<i>Other topics not currently included</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make more reference to global initiatives (eg climate change). • Include separate-section of cross-cutting issues which are not well covered by AAA.
STATEMENT OF RESOLVE		
6	Statement of resolve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage partner countries to be more comfortable in saying no, and change their mindset and attitudes to feel that they can say no without donor's permission.
7	Five pillars of the Paris Declaration	
	<i>Other topics not currently included</i>	
PRIORITY ACTIONS		
8	Call for action in priority areas	
STRENGTHENING COUNTRY OWNERSHIP OF DEVELOPMENT		
9.1	Deepen ownership by involving CSOs & Parliaments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could we include a commitment on regular and effective country level dialogue mechanisms between government and donors which include civil society and are accountable to parliament. • Donors commit to provide information on their aid programmes and disbursement using national systems (such as Aid Information Management Systems) to allow government to report better to their parliaments. • Donors and government need to commit to capacity development of parliamentarians as part of strengthening democratic ownership.

#	TOPICS	COMMENTS/PROPOSALS/ACTIONS
9.2	Record aid on budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step up efforts to record 'external resources' in the budget – in some countries this has been achieved, but in most it has not. A firm commitment is needed. • Paragraph 9, bullet 2 – too focused on government commitments. Donor support is also required – in terms of staff and expertise as well as systems, if countries are to succeed in recording all external as well as domestic resources in budget documents.
9.3	Linkages between MTEF & budgets	
	<i>Other topics not currently included</i>	
10	Conditionality (code of Conduct)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong statement is required on conditionality, committing to reducing conditionalities and respecting the spirit of ownership. • Conditionalities should respect a realistic timeframe for reform – often donor assistance is far too short-term. • Para 10 talks of “good practice on conditionality” – vague: might mean tighter conditionality that restricts our ownership! Similarly, harmonisation can increase conditionalities. • Lets us remove policy conditionality; limit it to fiduciary responsibilities. • Conditionality: should focus on realistic and mutually agreed outcomes related to National Development Strategies (and avoid detailed project level conditions). • Sometimes donors don't allow partner countries to take the ownership. You can do this – “but”... • Conditionality (Paragraph 10): not sure the current commitment is enough: we want more specific commitment... • e.g. Para 10 – ‘decreasing the number of conditions’ delete overlapping as want to reduce all conditions.
	<i>Other topics not currently included</i>	
IMPROVING COUNTRY ALIGNMENT WITH COUNTRY PRIORITIES, SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES		
11	Capacity Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate findings from the JICA study on Technical Cooperation in the AAA. • Capacity development should be supported by funding strategies that support a demand-driven approach. • Include positive concrete actions. e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Partner countries, with the support of donors will develop by [DATE] comprehensive frameworks for capacity development in countries where these frameworks do not exist, accompanied by funding programmes from donors. • Capacity development a major theme and should be stated either as cross-cutting theme or as sixth PD principle. • Donors should recognise they also require capacity development. • Donors must align with partner country master plan for capacity development . • Capacity development needed at all levels: sub-national government, line ministries, sectors. • Regarding Technical Cooperation... change wording “supply driven”. It should read “donor driven”.

#	TOPICS	COMMENTS/PROPOSALS/ACTIONS
11.1	Leadership in strengthening country systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where partner countries do not have comprehensive programmes for leadership development, need supportive approach from donors to develop this.
11.2	Strategies to increase use of country systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update donor policies on conditionalities that hamper use of national systems (some refer, for instance, to the General Procurement Agreement from 1994). There is a need to reassess and review general conditions by donors.
12	Adoption of PEFA for assessing PFM performance	
13	Medium-term predictability	
13.1	Three year commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donors commit to provide three-year rolling estimates of future ODA disbursements (indicative rather than binding).
13.2	Publishing country-by-country information on commitments etc.	
13.3	Disbursement modalities	
14	Countries in fragile situations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove the jargon (state-building, peace-building, whole of govt approach) and simply say support prioritises things related to sustaining life and livelihoods.
15	Untying aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner countries need to feel empowered to say no, including to tied aid, and to seek alternatives. Greater willingness of donors to use national rather than international consultants.
16	Role of CSOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitments from donors and governments to include citizen representation in development planning process.
	<i>Other topics not currently included</i>	
HARMONISING AND STREAMLINING AID DELIVERY AT COUNTRY LEVEL		
17	Integration of global programmes	
18	Good Practice on Division of Labour/Complementarily	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner countries lead the development of national programmes which reduce aid fragmentation.
19	Harmonising climate risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to and reflect international thinking on climate change (based on relevant analysis, previous work from the region and other regions). Current explanations in the text are unclear.
20	Harmonising Legal aspects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language is jargon. Technical issues such as the Legal Harmonization Initiative should be included in an Annex.
	<i>Other topics not currently included</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coherence within governments and donors: ensure that high level aid effectiveness commitments are followed through into implementation at the ground level, both by the partner country government, and also between donor HQ and field offices. Localizing the commitments. Can we have a commitment to localising the Paris Declaration into national policy and country level harmonisation action plans?
ACHIEVING AND DEMONSTRATING DEVELOPMENT RESULTS		
21	Incentives for donors and partner countries	
22	Measuring & delivering results	
	<i>Other topics not currently included</i>	

#	TOPICS	COMMENTS/PROPOSALS/ACTIONS
STRENGTHENING MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR DEVELOPMENT		
23	Strengthen mutual accountability mechanisms	
24	Rationalise international monitoring mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs to be applied to donors also. Not acceptable that Indicator 12 refers only to obligations on partner countries. • Perhaps donors should be required to produce a regular report detailing how they have implemented the PD – how have they adjusted policies & practices?
LOOKING FORWARD		
25	Taking forward Accra	
26	4th High-Level Forum	



Annex 2 | The Accra Round Tables: Messages from East & South-East Asia HLF Consultation

Round Table 1: Country Ownership

Democratic Ownership

(i) While there is no major disagreement on the issues involving country ownership, there is some question over how democratic ownership can be measured. The instrument (World Bank Aid Effectiveness Review) for measuring ownership as part of the Paris Declaration needs to be improved.

(ii) Ownership is impacted by aid modalities and the priority issues identified by partner countries. Donor-driven aid, conditionality, non-predictability, and tied aid and project-based aid, make it difficult for governments to plan and therefore lead to poor ownership. Good governance, transparency and accountability are also factors that are important for ownership and leadership.

(iii) Time bound commitments on localising Paris Declaration country action plans could lead to greater country ownership.

(iv) The 'How' of promoting ownership needs to look at the tension between conditionality and democratic ownership.

(v) Donor commitments to reducing conditionality have been disappointing in their scope. The emphasis seems to be shifting from reduction in conditionality to redesigning conditionality. This is rejected by countries in the sub-region, some of whom seek the elimination of policy conditionality by 2010.

(vi) Some countries requested that the commitment to reduce conditionalities should not be

limited to reducing 'over lapping' but should apply to all conditionalities.

Leadership and Capacity

(i) Leadership is a prerequisite for partner countries to ensure ownership. It is difficult for countries to reconcile heavy aid dependence and ownership.

(ii) There is the gap in capacity at national, sectoral, and provincial levels, and TC should be designed according to each context. Partner Countries need to develop capacity development plans across sectors and levels of government and to make this the basis for demand-driven technical assistance.

(iii) Donors distort democracy building by over-imposing conditionality – particularly at sub national levels.

(iv) Donors distort capacity building through over-use of international technical assistance, particularly at sub national levels. The linkages between national, local and community levels have to be taken into account while defining technical cooperation. Perhaps a commitment could be made by donors to ensure good practices which do not crowd out national capacity building or undermine domestic accountabilities?

(v) Some participants called for a reinforced commitment to link national priority programmes, MTEF (Medium Term Expenditure Framework) and budgets.

(vi) So many commitments for partner countries, so few for donors?

(vii) Donors should commit to more delegation of powers from the HQ to the field.

Country experiences

(i) Compared to other regions many countries have already (Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam) or are in the process of (Indonesia) localising the Paris Declaration through operational plans and declarations

(ii) Cambodia and its Donor Performance Report in Education, which assesses donor performance in delivering on programme-based approaches;

(iii) Lao PDR, improvements in procurement systems to facilitate greater use of national systems by donors.

Round Table 2: Alignment: Use of Country Systems, Untying Aid, Aid Predictability

Use of Strengthened Country Systems in Public Financial Management and Procurement (PFM&P)

(i) Where partner country capacity in PFM is weak, the best way to develop capacity is for donors to channel funds through country systems. Where donors create parallel system, country capacity has no opportunity to develop.

(ii) A coordinated plan for capacity development of country PFM systems is needed, and donors should align their capacity development efforts to it.

(iii) All donors must synchronise with partner country budget cycles and use a common system. Start with 'like minded donors', and progressively bring all donors into line.

(iv) Some participants suggested that increasing the use of direct budget support helps promote alignment with partner country systems.

(v) Partner countries and donors should use one common nationally-owned ODA database to record and manage all funds.

(vi) Some international standards are emerging such as PEFA (www.pefa.org) and OECD Joint Venture on PFM.

(vii) The 'One UN' pilot in Viet Nam making progress on harmonising basic foundations of programming – planning, budgeting and systems procurement, etc.

Aid Predictability

(i) Donors should speed up approval process for releasing committed funds so more funding delivered on time.

(ii) Donors should move beyond annual funding commitments (e.g. to three-year rolling horizon). This is an issue for donor head offices and requires political commitment of donors.

Untying of aid

(i) Progress by donors is varied: overall there is a need to reduce the proportion of tied aid.

(ii) Need commitment to use local suppliers and consultancy firms wherever possible. Increased decentralisation of donor operations is seen as desirable – undecentralised donors tend to favour using their own country's services and systems.

Round Table 3: Harmonisation: rationalising aid delivery, complementarity, division of labour

(i) Harmonisation means implementing common procedures in various aspects of development activity like planning, funding, disbursing, monitoring, evaluating & reporting. It also means overcoming excessive fragmentation of aid at various levels to increase complementarity and to decrease the transaction costs of delivering aid through more effective division of labour.

(ii) Harmonisation can be in the context of policy, systems, or process. It could also be between donor and government or among donors.

(iii) Donors are interested to harmonize but are not keen to be led by others – suggestion is to start with like-minded donors.

(iv) Increased use of Program Based Approaches (PBA) modalities can foster harmonization.

(v) Harmonisation needs to be balanced between donors and partner countries.

(vi) Harmonisation should not undermine the diversity of aid available for partner countries.

(vii) UN initiatives towards harmonisation in Viet Nam include the use of same policies and procedures for all its organisations.

Division of labour and complementarity

(i) Division of labour can help tackle fragmentation and misallocation of resources. Fragmentation leads to increased transaction cost of aid management and increased burden on local institutions, which can weaken ownership.

(ii) While there is general agreement on the basic principles on complementarity and what needs to be done, there has to be greater understanding on precisely *how* complementarity can be achieved and the *instruments* that can contribute towards complementarity.

(iii) Complementarity must take account of foreign direct investment and domestic resources as well as ODA for it have maximum impact on aligning external assistance with sectors for which there is a resource or capacity gap. In this way complementarity can promote the harmonisation of the *overall* development effort (domestic *and* donor-aided).

(iv) The approach to harmonisation needs to pay attention to diverse actors in changing aid environment.

(v) Inequality in government-donor relations can make it difficult for Government to determine comparative advantage of donors, which is a prerequisite in bringing about an efficient division of labour.

(vi) Country experiences, such as that from Cambodia, show that even today some sectors are over-funded, while others remain under-funded – and that faster progress on complementarity and division of labour is urgently needed.

(vii) In-country division of labour is the first priority, rather than division of labour among donors across countries, i.e. bring about harmonisation among donors as they operate within a particular country.

(viii) National development strategies and sector matrices would be useful in pushing forward the division of labour agenda.

(ix) Donor harmonisation requires government involvement – harmonization is a function of ownership and leadership by government (balance between host country and donors) and this hinges on adequate country capacity.

(x) Lao PDR's experience is relevant, where the government has designed development agenda with support from donors. While the strategy reflects country priorities, it also has donor flavour and hence has wider acceptability. A key to this process is to work with like minded donors whose perceptions are more closely aligned to that of the partner country.

(xi) Cross-country division of labour will need to begin with the development partners.

Round Table 4: Managing for Results and Development Impact

Managing for Development Results as a country system

(i) It was agreed that the results-based decision making process is as applicable to external aid as it is to the management of domestic resources.

(ii) The sub-region is home to a large number of MfDR good practices. These include the introduction of change management processes from 1998 to 2004 by the Philippines, which has resulted in the use of log frames in all agency budgets through the 'organizational performance integrated framework' (OPIF); secondly, Viet Nam's introduction of a monitoring and evaluation system in the Ministry of Finance; and Cambodia's example of setting up of common data systems used both by donors and the national monitoring systems.

(iii) However, the demand for results has to be articulated at the highest political level, and there is need to make the national budget process results oriented.

(iv) Strong leadership and ownership at the highest political levels is also required to ensure sustainability of the system.

(v) Country capacities to assess development outcomes need to be built in if the partner governments are to be more results-oriented.

(vi) In results management, capacity development and sustainability are key. A good practice example of peer-to-peer learning (for example between Afghanistan and Malaysia) is through the Community of Practice initiative supported by the Asian Development Bank.

Incentives for increased aid effectiveness in donor agencies

(i) Partner countries questioned whether the whole aid effectiveness agenda had become too technocratic, and if the donors were losing sight of the actual development outcomes; according to them: “Poverty is the real issue!”. And attribution to achievement of development results is a complex issue.

(ii) The Paris Declaration has paid little attention to the institutionalisation and sustainability of public service provision. Are the political leaders conscious that the provision of basic services such as health and education are so dependent on the donors?

(iii) Decentralisation may require a careful re-examination of how ownership is fostered and the concepts of development results applied.

(iv) Donors and partners need to identify incentives that can strengthen a results culture.

(v) Participants flagged the importance of developing capacity to deliver services to people and not simply improving resource and planning capacities; and secondly to promote joint capacity assessments for MfDRs.

(vi) Some country examples suggested that independent monitoring mechanisms (eg Indonesian Audit Board) are sometimes better than formal evaluation mechanisms.

(vii) The draft Accra Agenda for Action does not focus on poverty, gender, and delivery of services, while evidence points to the importance of measuring impact on people’s lives.

(viii) Predictability of aid is closely related to the achievement of results and the MfDR agenda.

Round Table 5: Mutual Accountability

(i) Mutual accountability was seen as the least understood of the Paris Declaration principles.

(ii) Most countries argued that there was no agreed definition of mutual accountability, and it was difficult to translate the meaning of mutual accountability into reality.

(iii) Various studies and recent literature, including the Oxford Policy Management (UK) study, run the risk of making mutual accountability overly complex and less operationally relevant at country level. Countries made a plea for keeping the issue of mutual accountability “simple” and suggested focusing on the text of the Paris Declaration, which argues for sharing information, and for transparency; issues that are simple to understand.

(iv) Capacity requirements to exercise mutual accountability were considered vital, ranging from leadership skills to sufficient budget and planning capacity at sector level. More effort was focused on creating capacities in the “hard” areas (eg, establishing a sector working group architecture or ODA database), without creating sufficient corresponding “soft” and human resource capacities without which systems deliver few tangible benefits. Willingness was sought to fund capacity assessments and implement country led capacity development strategies (not ad hoc technical assistance).

(v) An imbalance of commitments between donors and partner countries was flagged, and

it was considered ironic that only indicator in the Paris Declaration on mutual accountability (Indicator 12) refers to an obligation upon partner countries only.

(vi) There seemed to a consensus among partner countries that all the identified cross-cutting issues were important.

(vii) The issue of inclusion of Non-DAC donors in the debate was considered important.

(viii) Countries in the sub-region shared a range of good practice examples: Philippines has a long tradition of joint portfolio reviews with the donors, long predating the Paris Declaration. Viet Nam's example of Independent Monitoring reports, and Afghanistan's example of requiring all UN agencies to prepare business plans (in 2004), and assess synergies with the national development plans, were seen as strengthening country ownership and mutual accountability. Partner countries noted difficulties in obtaining reliable and comprehensive data from donors on their full ODA portfolio (including aid to NGOs). Countries recommended that some donors invest in improving their own tracking systems to facilitate their reporting to country aid information management systems and comply with the aid effectiveness survey requirements.

(ix) Paragraph 48 of the Paris Declaration says partner countries should strengthen the role of parliaments, but greater clarity is required on the role of the parliaments.

(x) It is important to recognize the diversity within the Asia-Pacific region, and there is need to explore the possibility of sharing good practices within the region.

(xi) Partner countries need to take a much more active role on the issues of mutual accountability. Some donors suggested that partner Governments should not be "timid" about leading the process and recommended that Governments need to tell the donors to live up to their commitments.

Round Table 6: The Role of Civil Society in Advancing Aid Effectiveness

RT 6 at Accra will focus on:

- Why does it matter to bring CSOs to Accra?
- What recommendations are needed to promote CSO effectiveness as actors in development? Do the principles of the Paris Declaration deal with this?
- How to take the agenda forward after Accra?

(i) Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have a unique and important role to play in aid effectiveness.

(ii) The civil society dimension touches many of the Round Table topics, in particular Round Table 5 (Mutual Accountability) and Round Table 8 (Aid Effectiveness in Fragile States and Conflict Situations).

(iii) There is great diversity among CSOs so the definition of CSOs is not clear. CSOs can be as development actors, donors, recipients and/or partners.

(iv) The principles of the Paris Declaration need to be translated or adapted to CSO context.

(v) Despite this diversity, there is broad agreement on 'cross-cutting' issues (human rights, gender and climate change) for civil society as they are at the core of CSOs mandates.

(vi) CSOs can bring new perspectives to the five principles of the Paris Declaration and provide additional solutions, both as direct development actors and as agents of accountability to other development actors.

(vii) CSOs have a role to play in aid coordination mechanisms and in accountability and can supplement existing auditing mechanisms and thus reinforce country systems. For this to work effectively, more needs to be done to develop trust between CSOs and governments.

(viii) Ways of establishing a well-balanced 'tri-partite' relationship of accountability between government, civil society and the 'people' should be explored. CSOs do not aim to duplicate the

function of governments, but to enhance government efforts.

(ix) For CSOs to play such roles well, investments in their capacities may be needed, particularly for local NGOs. International NGOs may sometimes marginalise or ‘drown-out’ local NGOs in ways which can parallel donor domination of partner country dialogue. It is important to leave space for local NGOs to participate in the development process, and in preparation up to Ghana.

(x) There are issues with the mandate, democratic ownership and accountability of CSOs as well as their relationship with governments allowing space to operate within an enabling environment. This links with Round Table 1 on democratic ownership and national leadership.

Round Table 7: Aid Effectiveness in Fragile States and Conflict Situations

Strengthen state legitimacy

(i) Early recovery and development interventions should focus on meeting basic needs, and in delivery key services well reinforce the legitimacy of the state. Efforts should be made to channel aid through governments and to allow governments take credit for services delivered, thereby bolstering legitimacy. Setting out clear national programmes which donors can buy into can reduce aid fragmentation, accelerate implementation and enhance state legitimacy.

(ii) Important to establish during the design phase who are the correct authorities to deal with if this is unclear. (e.g. Aceh in Indonesia after the tsunami/ earthquake.)

(iii) Development partners have already developed sets of principles (e.g. *OECD DAC Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations*). Donors must apply them, and be accountable against them.

Act Quickly

(i) Focus on a few critical issues necessary for stability and state building in the short term (basic services – “planning light”). In this regard, a consensus is necessary as to what these issues are between donors, and the authorities and citizens of the country in question. Timor-Leste’s recent actions provided a good practice in this regard.

(ii) Donors should respond quickly to prevent emergencies getting out of hand.

(iii) Where there is a weak government that can not coordinate ODA, it is necessary to rely on UN or donor coordination.

(iv) There are risks in creating “fast track” stand alone institutions/ministries – may be better to reinforce existing plan/budget departments (which may have fast track powers) including to manage fast-track grant/loan facilities.

(v) Donor responses have often been too short term and linear. Donors should plan for short-, medium- and long-term needs from the outset – perhaps through a Capacity Development Fund?

(vi) Traditional/customary practices and structures often persist despite conflict and these could be useful structures for delivery of aid and should be preserved.

Other issues for Round Table

(i) The Paris Declaration commitments and principles are even more relevant for fragile states or countries in conflict situations, but donors must be pragmatic and flexible in their responses.

(ii) Staff must be appropriate to post conflict (i.e. not the same as development environment) and not only ‘high quality’ (paragraph 14).

(iii) It was strongly suggested that this Round Table should cover countries experiencing ongoing conflicts (eg parts of Philippines) and prolonged situations of fragility.

(iv) Several very diverse countries within the region provide case study materials for Round Table 7,

including Timor-Leste, Indonesia (Aceh), and the Philippines.

Round Table 8: Sector Application of the Paris Declaration: Health, Education, and Infrastructure

(i) There is a need for real commitment from donors to harmonise and to align, not just pay lip service.

(ii) Programme Based Approaches (PBAs) at sector level imply increasing the level of trust between partners, and can make it easier for governments to take a comprehensive approach to development and to provide a framework against which donors can align.

(iii) Ownership, alignment and mutual accountability are all crucial for PBAs to work properly.

(iv) The diversity of country context needs to be taken into account. Different resources and different mentalities exist, so the same rules do not always apply.

(v) Reducing transaction costs is a key objective when applying the Paris Declaration at sector level, and this requires that internal management arrangements are well thought through with clear mandates and division of responsibilities.

(vi) Given that sector level initiatives are interconnected across regional, local and area-based activities, capacity development at local level will determine the effectiveness of sector level approaches.

(vii) The large number of trust funds and other joint financing arrangements that are set up and controlled completely by the donors or International Financial Institutions (IFIs), pose a challenge to furthering PBAs as a way of working.

(viii) A good practice for furthering a PBA is to start with a group of like-minded donors and move forward with them first, and then hope that the others will join with time.

(ix) In the absence of reliable country system, use adequate donor systems as transitional solutions, while simultaneously developing capacity of country systems.

(x) Create a focal point for reform/technical assistance which can support sector ministries in framing their demand for technical assistance, and based on this develop a national technical assistance plan, that is then used as a basis for negotiating support from donors in a demand-driven fashion.

(xi) Joint reform efforts need to focus on building the capacity of other actors, not only build administrative capacity among government officials. It requires looking holistically at constraints to development in the sector, and a combination of training, research, experts and institutional building.

(xii) To be successful developing a sector programme the strategy must be discussed with involvement of local communities, which requires a considerable time commitment.

(xiii) Donors are expected to adapt to, and to be led by, the partner country. It is a question of pride to donors that they want to be the innovators and leaders themselves, but this undermines the capacity and ownership of the partner country.

(xiv) Ownership requires knowledge and human capacity. The role of external consultants is to transfer knowledge and skills, but to do so without 'taking over'.

(xv) The Programme Based Approach is still seen too much as a financing modality, and in some cases a donor-led exercise. For instance some participants talked to donor/financier-led area based programmes or trust funds, rather than Government-led programmes.

(xvi) Indonesia's forestry sector and Cambodia's education sector both offer interesting country experiences that could be drawn upon in preparing Round Table 8.

Round Table 9: Implications of the Changing Aid Architecture for Aid Effectiveness – South-South Partners and Vertical Funds

(i) The range of donor types and sources of foreign funding for development has exploded – including non-DAC donors, new multilateral agencies, and sector specific global programmes and funds. Increasing corporate social responsibility is also channelling funds, though that is mainly within the private sector.

(ii) These present new challenges of managing aid and further heighten the issues of harmonisation, complementarity and division of labour.

(iii) There is a need to make all forms of aid effective, be this traditional or new aid.

(iv) One factor that became clear, which will be incorporated in further RT discussions is that, partner countries must have clear strategies within which all donors must operate, with adequate capacity. The onus is on the partner country to provide leadership. Governments are first and foremost accountable to their own people and may therefore have to be blunt with donors.

(v) It is important to use donor coordinating mechanisms (led by government) to ensure *complementarity* of aid. Must identify comparative advantage based on understanding of issues on the ground. The World Bank and ADB could work more together.

(vi) Non-DAC donors: recognition of the value of south-south cooperation and “triangular” cooperation, which is regarded as less donor-driven than other forms of aid, more in tune with cultural sensitivities.

(vii) Vertical funds/programs: Global Funds and all donors need to fit in with and respect local priorities and processes. Many are trying to implement the Paris Declaration. They work when local

strategies are clear. However, (i) they are still not adequately reflected in national budgets; (ii) salary supplements can create distortions; (iii) Use of parallel systems can undermine sustainability of results.

(viii) With increasing diversity of funding agencies, Lao PDR has operated a ‘basket funding system’ which provides the flexibility to keep programmes are somewhat open-ended so that late donor entrants can just plug into the sectors of their interest.

(ix) Indonesia argued that while there were clear benefits of south-south cooperation as the donor and host were able to interact at similar levels, sometimes more technical inputs from the north may be required. This highlights the importance of tri-lateral models, which could be one of the strands for Accra.

(x) One country argued that cooperation with non-DAC donors took place at the highest levels of government, and this political engagement locked in ownership from the start, with technical niceties following. Cooperation with traditional donors was often the exact opposite – beginning at the technical level and seeking to create ownership and political engagement after the fact.

(xi) On the other hand some concern was also expressed by others that some south-south cooperation is agreed at top levels and outside the planning system (i.e. top level decisions before technical discussion). This could be “a recipe for rent seeking” where local tender evaluation capacity is low. Host country processes (e.g. procurement policy) need to be respected.

(xii) Global initiatives can stimulate policy dialogue at the local level, such as in climate change. They also encourage competition.

(xiii) All donors must align and respect country priorities and processes.



Annex 3 | Evaluation of East & South-East Asia HLF Consultation: feedback from country participants

Thirty-three participants took the time to provide thoughtful feedback on what they liked about the East and South-East Asia HLF Consultation as well as providing recommendations for the South and Central & West Asia Consultations.

Participants indicated that they were very satisfied with the overall quality of the workshop and its usefulness to them as country-level practitioners. Participants stated that the consultation had provided “new knowledge that will make it easier to deal with donors”, and will “help us to improve our aid management and to be more demanding when dealing with donors on using resources more effectively”. The exchange among countries had provided “guidance on preparing our own agendas and roadmap” and will “help in localising the Paris Declaration”. A country-level donor official welcomed the consultation as a support to “communicating with headquarters and reviewing what we are doing with partner countries – will use the outcomes to follow-up with CSOs and government in country”.

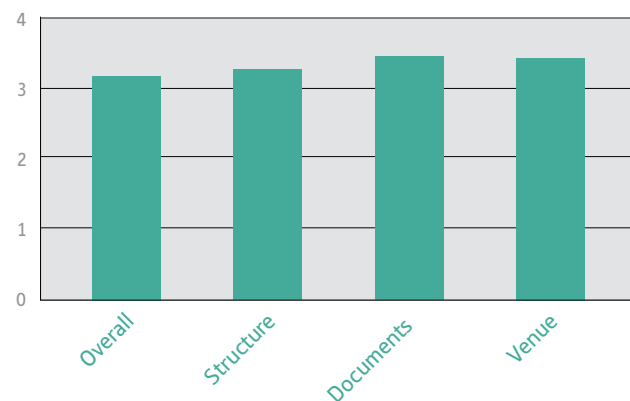
In the section entitled “What was good and should be done again?”, participants noted: “Good to have so much space for partner countries”, “Good dialogue between donors and partner countries” and “Welcomed asking donors to limit their interventions”, “Good to have CSOs present, especially those working on cross-cutting issues”, “Good rapporteurs, facility and services, friendliness and professionalism of organisers and facilitators”, “Interactive sessions were very good”, “Excellent organisation and logistics and support to

delegates”, “Overall a great workshop, congratulations”, “Great!”, “Chairing by partner countries is a great initiative”, “Discussions were candid and frank”, “Lots of lessons learned, need to be documented”, “Excellent presentations from partner countries on Paris Survey and Evaluation”.

Recommendations for improvements for the two remaining workshops included: “An initial discussion/acknowledgement of problems is needed at the start, so all can move on and focus on actions”, “More time to break the ice, get to know people, and their background/speciality”, “Too formal”, “Too early in consultation process to make specific commitments/actions on RTs”, “More guidance on the AAA discussion”, “More frank discussion”, “More participation from CSOs”, “Don’t overload with information”, “Participants need documents in advance”.

These recommendations were reflected in improvements in the design of the South and Central & West Asian consultations.

Country Participant Feedback (1=low; 4=high)



Annex 4 | Accra HLF-3: Round Table Chairing Arrangements

(as at 21 April 2008)

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Annex 5 | Agenda for East & South-East Asia HLF Consultation

Siam City Hotel, Bangkok, 21–22 April 2008

<i>Day 1: Monday 21 April</i>	
08:00–08:30	Registration and Welcome Coffee at Kamolthip III room, 2nd Floor
Session 1: Road to the High Level Forum in Accra	
08:30–08:40	1.1 Opening Remarks and Welcome: Aidan Cox, UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok
08:40–09:00	Chair: ADB (Shahid Zahid)
	1.2 Introduction to the High Level Forum
	Panel: OECD DAC: Ms Brenda Killen, Head of Aid Effectiveness Division, OECD Development Cooperation Directorate
	Ghana: Ms Mary-Anne Addo, Director, External Resource Mobilisation, Multilateral Division, Ministry of Finance & Economic Planning
	ADB (Shahid Zahid)
09:00–09:15	1.3 A Perspective from a Partner Country: Cambodia – H.E. Chhieng Yanara, Secretary General, Council for the Development of Cambodia
09:15–09:45	1.4 Plenary Discussion
09:45–10:15	Coffee
Session 2: Survey outcomes and country evaluation of Paris Declaration	
10:15–11:00	Chair: Ms Misaki Watanabe, Policy Analyst, Aid Effectiveness Division, OECD Development Cooperation Directorate
	2.1 Feedback from 2008 Survey of Aid Effectiveness
	Panel: Lao PDR: Mr Somchith Inthanmith, Director General, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Planning and Investment
	Indonesia: Dr. Ir. Dedi M Masykur
	Cambodia: H.E. Chhieng Yanara, Secretary General, Council for the Development of Cambodia
	2.2 Feedback from Paris Declaration Evaluation
	Panel: Viet Nam Mr. Cao Manh Cuong
11:00–11:40	2.3 Plenary discussion of key findings and implications for HLF
Session 3: Round Tables Working Group Discussions	
	RT Working Group Discussions will be chaired by a Government from the region, supported by an HLF 3 RT Co-Chair (if available) and a member of the organising committee (ADB, Japan, UNDP or World Bank)
1. Country ownership	6. Role of Civil Society Organisations
2. Alignment	7. Fragility & conflict situations
3. Harmonisation	8. Sector application of PD
4. Development results & impacts	9. New aid architecture and role of non-DAC donors
5. Mutual Accountability	

11:40–12:00	3.1 Introduction to Round Tables Session: objectives, co-chairing arrangements, opportunities to participate and contribute: Tom Beloe (UNDP Regional Centre)
12:00–13:15	Lunch at Patummart room, 1st Floor
13:15–15:00	3.2 Round Table Working Groups 1, 5 & 8
	<p>RT 1: Ownership (Kingkamol Breakout) Chair: Indonesia; Introduction: Tom Beloe (UNDP); Notes: Suzuko Tadashi (Japan) & Manoranjan</p> <p>RT 5: Mutual Accountability (Duangkamol Breakout/ Secretariat) Chair: Lao PDR, Mr Somchith Inthanmith, Director General, Department of International Cooperation; Introduction: James Polhemus (Ireland); Notes: Aidan (UNDP) and Manju (ADB)</p> <p>RT 8: Sector Experiences (Kamolthip/Plenary) Chair: Malaysia; Introduction: Camilla Salomonsson (SIDA); Notes: Antonio (ADB) & Eoghan (UNDP)</p>
15:00–15:40	3.3 Feedback to plenary from RT Working Groups 1, 5 and 8 Panel: 3 Working Group Chairs and any HLF-3 RT Co-Chairs Chair: ADB (Shahid Zahid)
15:40–16:00	Coffee
16:00–17:45	3.4 Round Table Working Groups 3, 4 & 7
	<p>RT 3: Harmonisation (Kingkamol Breakout) Chair: Cambodia; Introduction: Dr Jost Kadel (Germany); Notes Bee Ean (World Bank) & Manoranjan</p> <p>RT 4: Managing for Results (Duangkamol Breakout/ Secretariat) Chair: Philippines; Introduction Joan Boer (Netherlands); Notes: Bruce (ADB) and Manju (ADB)</p> <p>RT 7: Fragility & Conflict Situations (Kamolthip/ Plenary) Chair: Timor Leste; Introduction Aidan Cox (UNDP); Notes: Shahid (ADB) & Eoghan (UNDP)</p>
17:45–18:30	3.5 Feedback to plenary from Working Groups 3, 4 and 7 Panel: 3 Working Group Chairs and any HLF-3 RT Co-Chairs Chair: UNDP (Tom Beloe)
19:00–20:30	Dinner reception at Kamolporn room, 1st Floor

Day 2: Tuesday 22 April

Session 3: Round Tables Working Group Discussions (cont.)

08:30–10:15	3.6 Round Table Working Groups 2, 6 & 9
	<p>RT 2: Alignment (Kingkamol Breakout) Chair: Viet Nam; Introduction: Shahid Zahid (ADB); Notes Tom (UNDP) & Eoghan (UNDP)</p> <p>RT 6: Civil Society (Kamolthip/Plenary) Chair: Nepal; Introduction Tony Tujan; Notes: Manju (ADB) and Antonio (ADB)</p> <p>RT 9: Aid Architecture (Duangkamol) Chairs: Ghana & Thailand; Introduction Richard Manning; Notes: Rocio (WB) & Manoranjan</p>
10:15–11:00	3.7 Feedback to plenary from Working Groups 2, 6 and 9 Panel: 3 Working Group Chairs and any HLF-3 RT Co-Chairs Chair: Mr Andrew Jacobs, Head of Operations, EC Delegation, Thailand

Session 4: Accra Agenda for Action (AAA)

11:30–12:15 Chair: Mr Toru Maeda, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan

4.1 Introduction to AAA, process for finalisation, scope for making inputs, discussion ambition and expectations, and presentation of Draft AAA:

Brenda Killen, Head of Aid Effectiveness Division, OECD Development Cooperation Directorate

4.2 Short plenary for questions for clarification

12:15–13:30 Lunch at Patummart room, 1st Floor

13:30–14:30 Co-Chairs: Mr Soe Lin, World Bank; and Viet Nam

4.4 Three break out discussion groups on AAA

Group 1 Chair: Indonesia; (Kingkamol); Notes: Tom (UNDP) & Manoranjan

Group 2 Chair: Lao PDR, Mr Angkhansada Mouangkham, Director of Divison, Department of External Financial Relations, Ministry of Finance; Notes: Aidan (UNDP) & Eoghan (UNDP)

Group 3 Chair: Philippines, Ms Stella Laureano, Director, International Finance Group, Department of Finance; Notes: Antonio (ADB) & Misaki (OECD DCD)

14:30–15:30 **4.5 Feedback from 3 Working Groups and Plenary discussion**

15:30–16:00 Coffee

Session 5: NEXT STEPS

16:00–17:00 Chair: UNDP (Aidan Cox)

5.1 Next steps: identifying further actions at country and regional level to prepare for HLF and beyond

Introduction by Cambodia, Ghana, and ADB (Shahid Zahid)

5.2 Plenary discussion

17:00–17:15 **5.3 Workshop Closing:** ADB (Bruce Purdue)

Annex 6 | List of Participants:

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