

Report to the 4th CDIA PRC Meeting by the Stakeholder Forum Representatives
November 6, 2009 – Manila, Philippines

The CDIA Stakeholder's Forum

The purpose of the Stakeholder's Forum is to periodically inform the CDIA management structure (i.e. the CMT and the PRC) of the demand for CDIA services, reactions to CDIA services rendered, and more generally acts as a forum for stakeholder dialogue on all CDIA matters. The Stakeholders' Forum comprises representatives of individual CDIA client cities, concerned national/ provincial agencies, engaged private sector co-financiers, and representatives of broader stakeholder organizations, such as CITYNET, United Cities and Local Governments-Asia Pacific Region (UCLG-ASPAC), UN-Habitat, Cities Alliance, Clean Air Initiative for Asia, the Stockholm Environment Institute, NGOs, CBOs, and academia. The Stakeholders' Forum meets plenary once a year, back to back with a CDIA PRC meeting. (*CDIA Operational Guidelines*)

Introduction

Since the last PRC Meeting, the representatives have consulted other key players at the second consultative forum held in the morning of 5th November 2009. The Stakeholder's Forum was attended by a range of stakeholders, including the municipal associations (from Indonesia, Philippines and Nepal), city development fund representatives (Nepal), technical institutions (i.e. EMI, CIA-Asia), city networks (UCLG-ASPAC, CITYNET and ICLEI) and international organizations (UN-HABITAT). However, it was recognized that participation by a wider number of stakeholders was less than those who had participated in the initial forum (which had been organized in conjunction with the World Urban Forum in Nanjing in 2008).

While the participating agencies were familiar and knowledgeable about CDIA and its activities, many of the individually appointed participants from these organizations were in themselves not fully aware of CDIA activities, tools and mechanisms. This was a limiting factor in going deeper in the discussion within the limited time frame. In the future, the face-to-face component of the stakeholder forum should be considered for at least a 1 day session.

The meeting focused on two points, the reflection on CDIA activities, directions and outputs to date and the outreach strategies and partnerships to more effectively meet the demands. The following key points have been highlighted at the meeting:

Reflection on CDIA products from a 'demand' perspective

- A number of questions were raised, the priority issues focused upon:
 - Capacity building was highlighted as one of the key issues that CDIA needs to emphasise to help cities put into practices the CDIA tools and mechanisms; however it was recognized that such capacity building must fit within the core mandate of CDIA.
 - While all tools were viewed favourably, the Project Prioritization and Programming Tool was considered as the most valuable to local governments. Given the limited

time of operation of CDIA, there were still questions regarding the replicability within other city and country contexts.

- It was appreciated that these products are simple in nature, but they still need assistance and consultation to be fully and properly used and applied through cooperation partners.
- There is capacity at the local city level to mobilize own resources, but scale and ability to contribute varies widely. Many partners have experience with cities mobilizing resources to contribute to such development support inputs.
- To help ensure integration of supports, closer harmonization is recommended between CDIA and key agencies (e.g.: Cities Alliance and others) in regards to planning, implementation and monitoring. This is valuable to avoid potential confusion. Harmonization with local partners is also important for the same reasons. Additionally, questions were raised about longer-term support to cities once the initial studies had been completed.
- Significant discussion was undertaken on the need for strengthening city planning with a long-term perspective, while recognizing that it must fit within the parameters of CDIA's core mandate and the role and action of other possible actors in this field (e.g.: Cities Alliance).
- While recognizing that CDIA reacts to request from cities, discussion was undertaken about the need to encourage applications on a wider urban scale that may include local governments and neighbouring cities as well as considering to work with regional development authorities. The case of Iloilo/ MIGEDC was highlighted where such a joint application had been undertaken.
- While CDIA is currently responding rapidly to city applications, in the future there may be a growing gap between the time of application and approval for support. Hence there may be a need to fill this gap with capacity building activities and other interim support and consultation either directly or through partners to keep the cities engaged.

Outreach Strategies and Partnerships to more effectively meet demand

- It was recognized by the Forum that CDIA can only reach a limited number of the total demand for CDIA type services, and that other ways, means and collaborations are necessary to meet outstanding demand and build capacity of cities to undertake the tasks at hand and mainstream into regular practice. Concurrently, issues were raised of building expectations in light of capacity to deliver support even if financial resources were sufficient – i.e. supply of professional expertise.
- All present partners expressed their interest and commitment to collaborate. (e.g.: Such collaboration would include the dissemination of information within their memberships, capacity building and find ways and means to support spreading activities).
- It was further stressed that resources and networks are existing – the issue is on how CDIA should maximize and give value-added to existing networks and enhance resources.

- The step by CDIA to scan the various capacity-building agencies is a good first step, but there are other institutions and organizations outside that framework that can also make significant contributions.
- In order for the good practices of CDIA to be recognized and pursued by partners, especially at the regional and national level, there is a need to identify and enhance “Champion cities” that can become centers of excellence for others to learn from.
- With the establishment of CDIA Inc., it is reassuring to know that there are frameworks being set up to help provide long-term support and act as a body of knowledge in any such partnership to ensure sustainability after the program has come to a close. With such a long-term framework, other partners are therefore more likely to commit to such collaborations.
- The Forum explored ways and means on how to invite strategic partnerships and maintain involvement. An example presented was on how National Associations of Local Government could become shareholders within CDIA Inc.
- It was raised that CDIA partner cities that have been through the process could act as ‘mentors’ to next round cities. In this regard, wider mentoring programs should be pursued with more vigor including building enhanced sharing between partner cities and advanced cities in Asia. (e.g.: Iloilo, Philippines has agreed to be an anchor and has been invited to share its knowledge in a national event in Indonesian organized by CITYNET).
- Different agencies with different mandates and strategic focus can offer a range of linkages, collaborations and resource mobilization in order to make strategic contributions to the city development process that can link with CDIA’s mandate.

Next Steps

In order for the Forum to make more sustained and meaningful contributions to CDIA, communication among stakeholders needs to be enhanced which requires rethinking the means of engagement beyond once a year meetings. Options were discussed on integrating a web-based social networking approach (Forum blogs centered around key issues) with limited face-to-face meetings. While there is uncertainty whether this will be successful due to ability to mobilize organizations to take the time to provide input and feedback, but there was a general consensus that this approach should be tested for a trial period.

Such an approach would give opportunities for building support and contributions within the wider stakeholder community including participation among potential cities and other stakeholders at many levels.

Selection of Stakeholder Forum Representatives

A consensus on selection of the next stakeholder representatives to the PRC could not be reached during the meeting. As an interim measure, it was agreed that the current representatives will continue for an additional 6 months – during which time, ways and means of identifying and selecting representation from this forum will be decided.

For Information



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