

REGIONAL JOINT STUDIES BACKGROUND

Reference is made to Component 3.1/(ii) and 3.2 activities of the GMS CDC Project, Chap. VI/65, Table A1.3 of the PAM as well as CLV Grants GA, Sch 5 Para. 6 and GA, Sch 5, Para. 8.

PROCESS CHRONOLOGY

Dec 2006: Regional Steering Committee approves a procedure to clear regional activities (within the Component 3 of the GMS CDC Project).

May 2007: A detailed “**Procedure for the Regional Studies**” a public “**Call for Expression of Interest**” and the “**ToR of Regional Selection Committee**” are cleared by the Cyber Regional Steering Committee through the “non-objection” procedure.

18 May 2007: deadline for **official appointment** by Cambodia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam and WHO of their respective representatives to the **Technical Selection Committee**. By end of May, the TSC is complete and established.

Jun 2007: the **Call for Expression of Interests** is published in national newspapers in the 3 CLV countries as well as in a number of national and international websites. It is also sent directly to all national research institutions as listed by PMUs.

12 Jul 2007: last **deadline for submission** of Expression of Interest.

Jul 2007: RCU collects and aggregates all Eols in a **synthetic matrix**. Attempt to call for a physical meeting of the Technical Selection Committee failed due to too many conflicting schedules among the members.

Aug 2007: RCU develops an **electronic procedure** for the selection of the Eol to circumvent the impossibility to meet physically. All members of the TSC are informed of the latter by fax/email. A CD-Rom together with hardcopies of the Eol are sent to their postal addresses by express mail.

05 Sep 2007: Deadline for submission of the **evaluation grid** from Technical Selection Committee members. This first evaluation step through the evaluators’ scoring helped to skim out the evident unwanted or unqualified Eol; however -- as was expected -- the mere scoring did not seem to provide a fine-enough result that could just be taken “as is”. The outcome indeed raised a number of questions; especially, what Eols/ Institutions should be selected. **Five options** of selected Eols/ Institutions were proposed.

26 Sep 2007: Deadline for the second round of five options selection from Technical Selection Committee members. There was **no consensus** at this stage as among Technical Selection Committee members. Consultation with ADB Headquarters needed to be made.

Oct 2007: Consultation with ADB Headquarters and ADB consultant team. It was decided to submit the issue to RSC for discussion and decision-making.

Nov 2007: Consultation with GMS CDC Project Regional Steering Committee at the Regional Steering Committee meeting in Vientiane. It was decided that only **Eols from CLV countries** will be selected and only **one Eol per institution**.

Dec 2007: Preparation by RCU in consultation with ADB Headquarters on “**Request for Proposal**” form and list of selected Eols/ Institution taking all past consultations into consideration: evaluation by Technical Selection Committee members; decision of Regional Steering Committee of GMS CDC project and ADB Headquarters’ suggestion.

18 Jan 2008: Requests for **detailed proposal** for Regional Small Scale Operational Studies were sent to 6 selected institutions. Deadline for proposals submission is 25 February 2008.

25 Feb 2008: By the deadline, RCU received the submission of the **3 proposals** from 03 institutions out of 6 institutions invited.

Feb 2008: RCU develops an **electronic procedure** for the evaluation of the proposals to circumvent the impossibility to meet physically. All members of the TSC are informed of the latter by fax/email. A CD-Rom together with hardcopies of the proposals are sent to their postal addresses by express mail.

17 Mar 2008: Deadline for submission of the proposal evaluation. **Five out of eight members** of the TSC sent their duly-filled evaluation. One TSC member's evaluation was incomplete and consequently ineligible.

Mar - May 2008: **Two more** proposal evaluations from TSC members arrived. They could not send earlier due to heavy workload (quorum is reached).

Jun 2008: RCU, in consultation with ADB Headquarters, closed the evaluation process since the **quorum¹ is reached** (ref. para. "Composition and quorum" of ToR of TSC) and time had passed.

Consequently, after aggregating results and their computing – and in line with the approved procedure, as well as the agreed upon scoring system – **two (2) proposals passed the minimum scoring requirement (750/1000)**, and are therefore selected. These proposals are:

1. Proposal number 3 (RFP 3):
 - Name of applicant: Health Strategy and Policy Institute (HSPI) - MoH, Vietnam.
 - Topic of the study: "**HIV/AIDS Transmission at the Vietnam - Lao Border Area, Current Status and Solutions**".
 - Countries involved: Vietnam and Lao PDR
 - Institutions involved:
 - o Health Strategy and Policy Institute - MoH, Vietnam.
 - o Vietnam Administration of HIV/AIDS Control (VAAC) (one researcher).
 - o Centre for HIV/AIDS/STI (CHAS) – Lao PDR.
 - Proposed study duration: 6 months.
 - Proposed budget: 99,230 US\$.

2. Proposal number 6 (RFP 6):
 - Name of applicant: Dept. of Occupational Health, Faculty of Public Health, Hanoi University of Medicine - Vietnam
 - Topic of the study: "**International epidemiological collaborative surveillance, epidemiology and prevention of HBV, HCV, HIV and rabies at the greater Mekong sub-regions**".
 - Countries involved: Vietnam, Lao PDR and Cambodia
 - Institutions involved:
 - o Dept. of Occupational Health, Fac. Of Public Health, Hanoi University of Medicine – Vietnam.
 - o National Institute of Public Health, Cambodia.
 - o National Institute of Public Health, Lao PDR.
 - Proposed study duration: 18 months.
 - Proposed budget: 99,755 US\$.

26 Jun 2008: Informed the RSC of the results of the proposal selection following the "old procedure" and requested RSC for clearance of the RCU proposal for a **new efficient procedure** to select joint regional studies with deadline of 18 July 2008.

18 Jul 2008: by the deadline of the above consultation, there was no objection from RSC members – but one suggestion from ADB HQ to accept 2 proposals from the "old" procedure under conditions only (conditions not stated).

28 Jul 2008: Informed the RSC and CLV of the **clearance of 2 selected proposals** and "**new procedure**". RCU engaged the newly approved procedure and called EAs to submit topics for regional joint studies with deadline of 12 August 2008.

12 Aug 2008 (new procedure): Only Vietnam submitted topics for joint studies. At the 3rd PMM, deadline for submission of topics from Laos and Cambodia was extended to 29 August 2008.

¹ Despite the fact that one of TSC member failed to submit his evaluation form and another's evaluation was ineligible for incompleteness (in breach with para. "Selection of the Research Study proposals" of the RSC-approved ToR of the TSC).

29 Aug 2008 (*new procedure*): Received suggested topics from Cambodia and Laos. Total topics from CLV are **30 topics** – but some topics are out of scope.

Sep 2008 (*new procedure*): Consulted ADB HQ on proposed topics and after screening, it came up with **11 topics selected**

29-30 Oct 2008 (*new procedure*): **Scientists meeting** was organized in Ho Chi Minh with outputs (i) a prioritized list of CLV-proposed “Joint Small Scale Operational Studies” topics and a (ii) proposed list of qualified [research] institutions in the CLV countries and in the subregion for each of these priority study topics.

Aug 2008 - Dec 2008 (*old procedure*): Study **proposals fine-tuning and contracts negotiation** with the two selected institutions as per old procedure (Hanoi Medical University; Vietnam Health Strategy and Policy Institute).

19 Dec 2008 (*new procedure*): Sent “**Call for Expression of Interest**” - Eol - to 19 suggested institutions with deadline on 9 Jan 2009.

Jan - Feb 2009 (*new procedure*): After screening Eols, it came up with **10 eligible institutions** expressed interest in **7 study topics**.

Nov 2008 - Feb 2009 (*new procedure*): Consulted ADB HQ and RSC on proposed next steps and budget for the studies under the new procedure, it came up with **2 more studies** would be selected from new procedure with ceiling budget of **85,000USD for each study**.

9 Jan 2009 (*old procedure*): **Contract with Hanoi Medical University** (HMU) on the proposed study topic (*International epidemiological collaborative surveillance, epidemiology and prevention of HBV, HCV, HIV and rabies at the greater Mekong sub-regions*) was signed with the budget of 82,000USD after contract negotiation. HMU started conducting the study from 3 Feb 2009 and was supposed to complete the study on 31 Oct 2009.

12 Mar 2009 (*old procedure*): **Contract with Vietnam Health Strategy and Policy Institute** (HSPI) on the proposed study topic (“*HIV/AIDS Transmission at the Vietnam - Lao Border Area, Current Status and Solutions*”) was signed with the budget of 84,000USD after contract negotiation. HSPI started conducting the study from 17 Mar 2009 and was supposed to complete the study on 31 Oct 2009.

31 Mar - 1 Apr 2009 (*new procedure*): RCU organized the **Joint Regional Studies Proposal Preparation Meeting** for CLV research institutions to agree on their respective role in the proposal writing and on scientific methodology to follow: 1 topic was dropped out; 3 topics on parasites were combined into a new one; resulting in 4 study proposals left to develop. Deadline for detail proposals submission was 23 Apr. 2009.

8 Apr 2009 (*new procedure*): Requested CLV countries and WHO to nominate experts to form a **new Technical Selection Committee** for study proposals evaluation. Deadline was 17 Apr 2009.

23 Apr 2009 (*new procedure*): Extended the deadline for proposals submissions to 29 Apr 2009 as institutions needed more time to get signatures for proposals and CVs of researchers.

29 April 2009 (*new procedure*): Four detail study proposals were submitted to RCU. After screening, all **4 proposals were accepted** for the next step of proposals evaluation.

19 May 2009 (*new procedure*): The last member of TSC was nominated.

20-21 May 2009 (*new procedure*): Planned for TSC meeting to evaluate study proposals but it was postponed to 28-29 May 2009 due to the absence of some TSC members.

28-29 May 2009 (*new procedure*): **TSC Meeting** was organized in Nha Trang, Vietnam for study proposals evaluation.

1 Jun 2009 (*new procedure*): RCU integrated proposal evaluation results and selected the **2 top proposals** that passed minimum requirement of the joint regional studies. RCU then submitted selected

study proposals to Regional Steering Committee for clearance with deadline on 8 June 2009. By the deadline, there was no objection from RSC.

9 Jun 2009 (*new procedure*): RCU informed all 4 institutions selection result. Selected proposals:

1. Proposal number RFP-N02
 - Name of applicant: University of Health Sciences (UHS), Cambodia.
 - Topic of the study: **“Cross border surveillance of AI along Cambodian and Vietnam Borders [Community-Based surveillance]”**.
 - Countries involved: Vietnam and Cambodia
 - Leading institution: the University of Health Sciences, Cambodia
 - Institutions involved:
 - o National Centre for Parasitology, Entomology and Malaria Control (CNM), Cambodia
 - o National Institute of Public Health (NIPH), Cambodia
 - o National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE), Vietnam
 - o Tay Nguyen Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (TNIHE), Vietnam
 - Proposed study duration: 7 months.
 - Proposed budget: 85,000 US\$.

2. Proposal number RFP-N03
 - Name of applicant: National Institute for Malariology, Parasitology and Entomology (NIMPE), Vietnam.
 - Topic of the study: **“Study of prevalence of soil-transmitted helminthiasis and anaemia status among women of child bearing age in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam”**.
 - Countries involved: Vietnam, Cambodia and Lao PDR
 - Leading institution: National Institute of Malariology, Parasitology and Entomology (NIMPE), Vietnam.
 - Institutions involved:
 - o National Institute of Public Health (NIPH), Lao PDR;
 - o Center of Malariology Parasitology and Entomology (CMPE), Lao PDR;
 - o National Centre for Parasitology, Entomology and Malaria Control (CNM), Cambodia
 - Proposed study duration: 7 months.
 - Proposed budget: 85,000 US\$.

11 Jun 2009 (*new procedure*): RCU started **proposal fine-tuning and study contracts negotiation** with selected institutions (UHS and NIMPE).

25 Jun 2009 (*new procedure*): **Contract with UHS** on the proposed study topic (“Cross border surveillance of AI along Cambodian and Vietnam Borders [Community-Based surveillance]”) was signed with the budget of 85,000USD after contract negotiation. UHS started conducting the study from 8 July 2009 and was supposed to complete the study on 29 January 2010.

26 Jun 2009 (*new procedure*): **Contract with NIMPE** on the proposed study topic (“Study of prevalence of soil-transmitted helminthiasis and anaemia status among women of child bearing age in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam”) was signed with the budget of 85,000USD after contract negotiation. NIMPE started conducting the study from 9 July 2009 and was supposed to complete the study on 29 January 2010.

From Jan 2009 to Jun 2009 (*old procedure*): RCU closely followed up **studies implementation of HMU and HSPI** with timely supports and adjustments in study implementation progress; technical and financial issues; and submissions of studies’ final products.

From Jul 2009 to Feb 2010: RCU closely followed up **studies implementation of UHS; NIMPE; UHS; and NIMPE** with timely supports and adjustments in study implementation progress; technical and financial issues; and submissions of studies’ final products.

Jan 2010: HSPI submitted the study’s final products as per the contract with RCU, including a Scientific Report (Study findings report) and a Study Completion Report (Project completion report).