

Report to the 3rd CDIA PRC Meeting by the Stakeholder Forum Representatives May 25-26, 2009 – Stockholm Sweden

The CDIA Stakeholder's Forum

The purpose of the 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

The Stakeholder Forum Representatives have been appointed by the CDIA Programme Review Committee (PRC) to serve as non-voting members on the PRC. As Stakeholder Forum Representatives, we have been asked to act as independent representatives providing input and feedback to the PRC and CDIA management of the demand for CDIA services and provide reactions to CDIA services rendered. We have been requested by CDIA CMT to jointly formulate a report detailing this information for submission at the next PRC meeting (May 25-26, 2009). The following points represent the key aspects from a 'demand' perspective:

Reflection on CDIA activities from a 'demand' perspective

- Given the current levels of city capacity and the ongoing urbanization process, the relative demand for CDIA type of service is foreseen to be required for at least the next two decades
- Concur that focus should primarily be on the medium sized cities as the capital cities and mega-cities tend to have more and better access to resources and finances, as well as being better served by the national government and international donors
- In its work, CDIA must continue to 'push' cities to address equity and equality aspects regarding access to urban services for all urban residents
- The long-term challenge is to get to the point where Asian cities can continue on their own to sustain the process of going from plans to implementation without international donor support

What could/ should CDIA do differently?

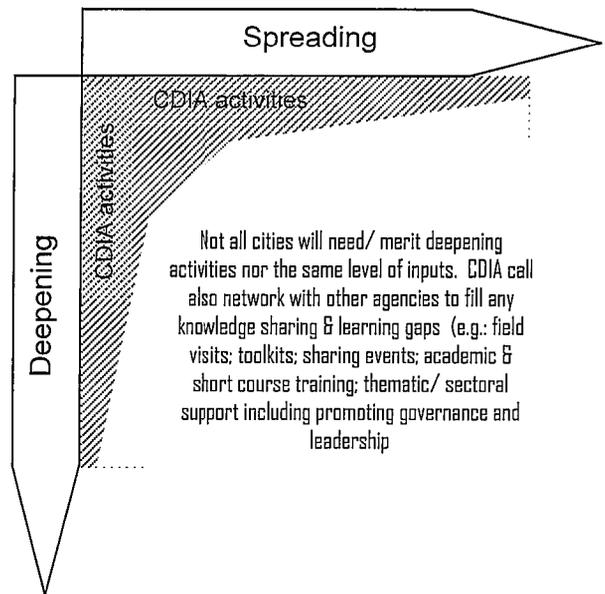
- CDIA should explicitly help cities cope with two immediate crises: (1) the ongoing global financial crisis where cities need to stimulate revenue for themselves and their citizens through key infrastructure investments; and (2) Climate change approaches that can impact the long-term viability of many cities

- While it will be the medium-sized cities that will be most under immediate stress, CDIA should work with the national policy level to help prepare a national policy/ strategy for preparing the smaller cities of Asia to accommodate the expected growth and demand for urban services
- Many of the first round CDIA cities have typically been 'recommended' by international agencies based on ongoing projects, the challenge for CDIA is to now reach those cities that are not 'linked' to such international initiatives, but equally require such support
- Expand Prefeasibility Studies (PFS) areas to also cover culture/ heritage / public or civic space aspects so as to recognize the vitally important role this aspect plays in defining many Asian cities
- Ensure that Knowledge is shared – i.e.: results and processes must not only belong to the experts/ consultants, but become integrated within the partner cities. The objective is for the lessons learnt to become incorporated into the city development plan along with the budget to reflect the political will of cities to address the infrastructure development challenge
- Promote accessibility by LGUs to delivery of urban services (promote devolution as well as implementation) to sustain the process at the local level. An objective of CDIA should be to empower existing institutions to take on the role as well as promote devolution to the local level

How it can be done differently

- Pursue greater national policy interventions where national Policy reform is needed as part of the spreading and sustainability approach
- Participation is to be incorporated wherever possible so as to let cities not only be recipients, but also to become shareholders in the CDIA
- Continue to build upon existing networks and avoid creating new networks (national and regional) especially when it comes to capacity building and mentoring
- Linkages can be made with multiple national and academic agencies. Focus on only 1 or 2 key academic institutions in each country/ region should be avoided but build upon the strengths of each
- Capacity building for financing infrastructure development remains key. Increased efforts are now required to engage the national government as partners along with national associations of local government, a range of academic institutions and selected members of the NGO community active in this field
- Learning and sharing among municipalities can be further encouraged by getting to the national level by seeking to establish a network of learning among the associations. For this, documentation becomes a vital tool in the learning process
- Selection of applicant cities should remain transparent as possible. There are opportunities to involve national or regional associations within the 'pre-screening' of city applications
- There are many forms of 'knowledge sharing' that can be pursued, but it must also recognize the varying capacities of cities and their administration. Mentoring between cities is one valuable approach that should be pursued

- Regarding the issues surrounding CDIA's deepening and spreading aspects it is believed that both components are important and a balance is required. The deepening work does not need to address all CDIA partner cities as not all cities need additional inputs. Thus, deepening activities should focus primarily on cities that have the carrying capacity to not only absorb additional inputs but are also willing to become centers of good practice/ champions for other cities to learn from. Concurrently, spreading to other cities across Asia is important to provide coverage in as wide a range of countries as possible so as to develop materials and responses that address many contexts and urban situations for the various national governments and other in-country actors to learn from and further respond. Mayors and senior city administrative personnel need to be encouraged to become resource persons to motivate and share their knowledge and experience to other cities under both the deepening and spreading activities. Addressing the 'gap' between the deepening activities and spreading activities can be pursued through network partners and agencies taking on a range of CDIA developed (but not necessarily financially sponsored) knowledge sharing activities and products.



On behalf of CITYNET and TEI as well as the stakeholders we represent, we hope the PRC will review the above recommendations and observations as input to subsequently improve the performance of CDIA. We firmly believe that CDIA does provide a much needed service that reinforces Asian cities' development frameworks. In its ongoing work we encourage CDIA to continue with not only the support it is providing to cities, but to work and empower their partner cities to ensure that both these cities and their vulnerable communities are equally benefiting from this much needed initiative.

Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi
Programme Director, CITYNET

Dr. Chamniern Paul Vorratnchaiphan
Senior Director, TEI

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