

Abstract

A Study on Education Indicator Development and Statistical Capacity
Building for Asian Developing Countries (IV)

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The present study is a ten-year project that aims to implement international development cooperation on education indicators and statistical capacity. To be specific, this project seeks to assist Asian developing countries to develop their educational systems by building their own capacities to produce

education statistics and indicators. The project consists of a preparation stage (2016) and three rounds of consultation (1st round: 2017-2019; 2nd round: 2020-2022; 3rd round: 2023-2025). Each round spans three years, during which KEDI performs diverse advisory activities for partner countries. From 2017 to 2019, the first round of consultation has been carried out with three partner countries: Mongolia, Vietnam, and Sri Lanka.

During 2017-2018, the project team and partner countries have made some substantial and practical achievements, such as making amendments to the education law, securing a budget for education statistics, etc. However, limitations have also been found, including a lack of capacity to expand consulting to ODA and scattered focuses of consultation across partner countries.

Based on the achievements and limitations identified during the first two years, this year's consultation focused on wrapping up the first round and preparing for the second round. First, the project team continued their consulting efforts for building statistical capacity in partner countries and reviewed the overall consultation outcomes over the past three years. Second, the project team explored the possibilities of cooperation with international organizations in future consultation. Third, the project team analyzed the assumptions and processes for the first round of consultation in order to provide a theoretical framework for international development cooperation on education indicators and statistical capacity. This theoretical framework concerned three aspects of cooperation, including the level of a nation's education statistical system, cooperation types, and cooperation contents. The framework was expected to help in understanding the overall process of statistical capacity building consulting, as well as to provide a theoretical background for the second round of consultation to be implemented over the next three years. Fourth, the goals of the second round of consultation were set. They include 1) continuing the one-to-one cooperation approach for

statistical capacity building; 2) supporting other types of cooperation that may be derived from this project; and 3) clarifying each stage of consultation (i.e., assessment, training, and building statistical infrastructure). Fifth, based on the goals set for the next consultation, the project team will soon select the next partner countries. The selection criteria would include each applicant country's current status of education statistics system, areas of interest, participation willingness, etc. and may also include each applicant country's region, economic status, and diplomatic relations.

Finally, suggestions for future research and policies were derived regarding 1) directions for future international cooperation for education statistics, 2) the effectiveness of international cooperation for education statistics, and 3) utilization of an international network to diversify the types of international cooperation for education statistics.

keywords : education statistics consultation, international cooperation for education statistics, education indicator, Sustainable Development Goals