

Institute On Governance

Better Governance through Thought and Action



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation



How Successful Has RDEAB Been?

9th APEC/RDEAB Workshop on Agricultural
Biotechnology
November 13-22, 2005
Santiago, Chile



Presentation structure

- Short background on the IOG
- Summary of two research papers:
 1. Evaluation of RDEAB activities & outputs
(*What did it do?*)
 2. Assessment of RDEAB outcomes
(*What did it achieve?*)
- Two recommendations



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IOG: *who are we?*

- Non-profit, non-partisan think-tank
- Mission: sound public governance
- 15 years old, 20 staff, worked in 35+ countries
- Activities: research, learning events, advice

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Our assignments

- Two reports with overlapping purposes:
 - Assess RDEAB's function & performance
 - Evaluate value gained from resources provided to support Sub-group activities
 - Provide basis for developing future workplan



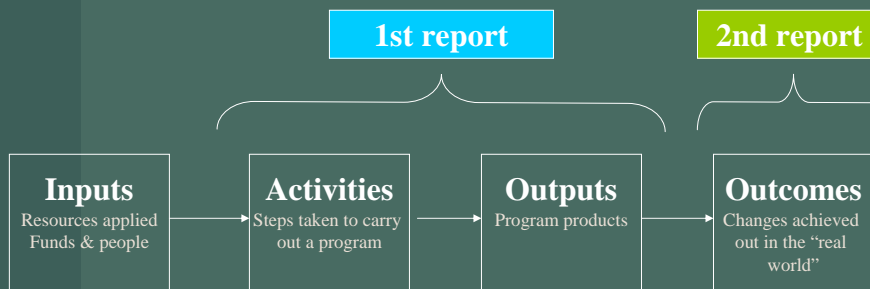
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Our assignments

- First report examined activities & outputs
- Second report assessed outcomes



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1st study: *what did RDEAB do?*

- Focus: Sub-group mandate and progress
 - To what extent did RDEAB fulfill mandate?
- Method:
 - Based on review, synthesis & analysis of workshop reports, other Sub-group products and APEC/ATCWG governing documents
 - Duration of 2 months: completed April 2005

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1st study: *what did RDEAB do?*

■ Findings:

- Excellent track record of outputs
- Exceeded goals identified in key APEC documents
- Progress particularly effective for “information exchange & transparency”



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Summary of 1st Study

- Has been included as “Table 1” in the second report “RDEAB: An Evaluation of Performance, 1999-2005, and the Path Forward”

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2nd study: *what did RDEAB achieve?*

- Focus: Sub-group in-country results, Shepherd transition
 - What has RDEAB accomplished for Member Economies in agricultural biotechnology?
 - What should be Sub-group's future directions?
- Method:
 - Open, web-based questionnaire
 - Interviews with selected representatives

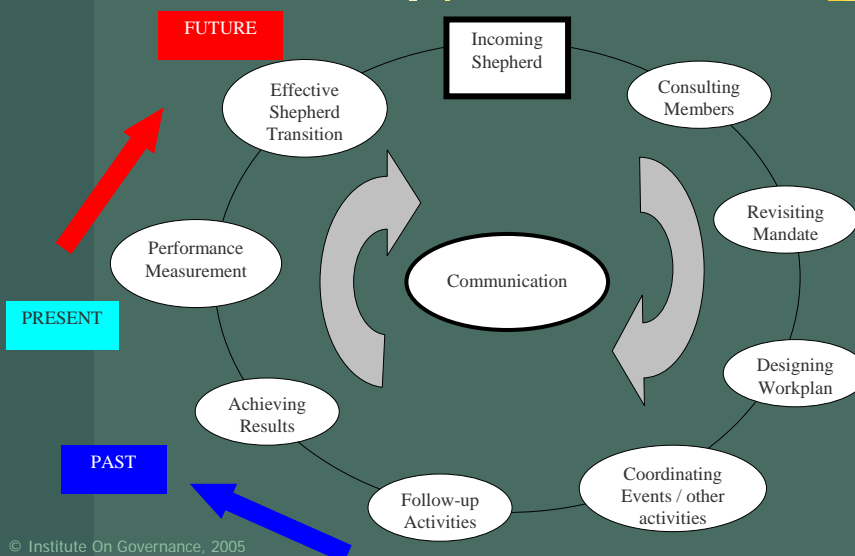


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2nd study: *what did RDEAB achieve?*



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2nd study: *what did RDEAB achieve?*

■ Mandate:

- Found members feel mandate still current
- Room for new issues to be added
- Potential need for "4 Pillar" objectives to be clarified / further differentiated

■ Sub-group events/activities:

- Excellent event menu (given diverse interests)
- Strength of "building bridges both ways"
- Interests correspond to stage of development

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2nd study: *what did RDEAB achieve?*

■ "4 Pillar" objectives:

1. Science-based assessment of the products of biotechnology

- Strongest area of RDEAB accomplishment
- Resources used very effectively
- Some specific outcomes:
 - Better understanding on risk assessments
 - Input into National Biosafety Framework
 - Guideline for Environmental Risk Assessment of GM
 - Better trained S&T personnel, regulators

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2nd study: *what did RDEAB achieve?*

2. Technical cooperation:

- Lowest area of accomplishment - though meaningful progress made
- Fair use of resources
- Some specific outcomes:
 - Research collaboration between China and the Philippines for transgenic cotton
 - General knowledge sharing on biotechnology

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2nd study: *what did RDEAB achieve?*

3. Transparency & information exchange:

- Good level of concrete results achieved
- Effective use of resources
- Some specific outcomes:
 - Better understanding of international regulatory approaches
 - Use of best practices for communication
 - Benchmark for best practices in managing biotechnology



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2nd study: *what did RDEAB achieve?*

4. Capacity building:

- Very good results achieved
- Resources used quite effectively
- Some specific outcomes:
 - Developed capacity to develop capacity
 - Regulatory approvals for import
 - More effective field trials and plant products



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Recommendation 1

- A performance measurement regime
 - Sub-group produced concrete results
 - But these need to be tracked more accurately
 - RBM links steps with measurable indicators
 - Allows value to be demonstrated to parent bodies (e.g. ATCWG, APEC), stakeholders and citizens

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Recommendation 2

- Room for communications improvement
 - Communications are Sub-group's "life blood"
 - Effective messaging "upwards" important: to APEC and ATCWG
 - Also space for communication "downwards" to Member Economies, citizens & stakeholders
 - Value of maintaining links with RDEAB "alumni"



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The Path Forward

- See Tables 7 and 8 in "RDEAB: An Evaluation of Performance ..."
- Logic model exercise in this workshop
 - Tighten pillars? New pillars?
- Building the next strategic plan

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