

Communiqué

Enhanced Integrated Framework Subregional Workshop

Port Vila, Vanuatu

16 to 18 March 2010

The first regional EIF capacity-building workshop took place from 16 to 18 March 2010 in Port Vila, Vanuatu, at the invitation of the Government of Vanuatu. The workshop was funded by the EIF Trust Fund and organized by UNDP Fiji.

The workshop was opened by the Rt. Hon. Sato Kilman, MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Commerce and Tourism for Vanuatu, and by Ms. Dorothy Tembo, Executive Director, IF Secretariat at the World Trade Organisation. H.E. Ambassador Roy Mickey Joy, Ambassador of Vanuatu to Brussels, presided over the closing ceremony.

Delegations attending the workshop included representatives from Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. The event was also attended by H.E. Pan Sorasak, Secretary of State and EIF Focal Point, Ministry of Commerce of Cambodia, who shared the Cambodian experience with the Pacific EIF beneficiary countries.

The first two days of the workshop focused on the transition from the IF to the EIF, trade mainstreaming, specific capacity building for countries to manage the EIF's diagnostic phase, and the full implementation of the EIF, including specific EIF project development. The third day of the event addressed the question on how the EIF can support countries to meet the specific challenges of WTO accession, the wider Aid for Trade agenda in the Pacific, and the role of development partners in EIF and Aid for Trade implementation.

The workshop provided a timely impetus for the Pacific EIF beneficiary countries to benefit from the enhanced support offered by the EIF. Through the individual support offered to each delegation, participating countries were able to draw up specific targets and road maps for EIF implementation.

As a follow-up, the workshop agreed to plan for a similar regional or global event in 2011, when the stakeholders could jointly evaluate the medium-term outcomes of the first workshop.

Summary of the specific targets and road maps

Kiribati: The next step is to start the DTIS, which will focus on resource base (water/fisheries, environment and energy and human resource development), legislation – in particular trade policy, which does not exist in Kiribati – and on the linkages between trade, growth and poverty reduction. The consultant will arrive in the late summer, before October. Christmas Island, on which most of the economic activity takes place, is far away but absolutely needs to be included in the analysis. This needs to be taken into consideration in the time plan for the team leader. Also, the expert support will be used to build capacity in Kiribati to develop an EIF Tier 1 proposal.

Samoa: The next step for Samoa is to finalize and validate the DTIS, for which the target is April/ May 2010. At the same time, the Focal Point and her team are preparing a Tier 1 project with a view to launching the project shortly after the DTIS Validation so that the Tier 1 project can facilitate the DTIS Action Matrix implementation from the start.

Solomon Islands: Solomon Islands has an advanced draft of a first-phase Tier 1 project that will be finalized in the next few weeks. The TFM capacity assessment mission will take place in the week of 22 March. The project is expected to be submitted for approval shortly after the TFM capacity assessment mission.

Timor-Leste: On the productive side, the focus of the DTIS is the non-oil sector, specifically the coffee and the fisheries sectors, SPS requirements from Indonesia, as well as organizing the work undertaken in various ministries and departments to avoid overlap. The work on the DTIS has progressed well, and the validation workshop will take place in the next few months; one priority before the validation workshop would be to ensure that the Ministries of Trade, Finance and Economic Development will work jointly on the trade development agenda. Initial products of export interest are mungo beans, livestock, and fisheries. Beyond that, the priority will be to set up an NIU to implement the DTIS Action Matrix.

Tuvalu: Review of the national development strategy on a consultative basis will take place in November 2010, which will be preceded by a technical review by the ministries led by the Ministry of Finance in August. Target for the DTIS would be to feed into the review and to highlight the link between trade, growth and poverty reduction. Priority for DTIS is to review the relevant legislature and to highlight areas for trade policy review and development, and to identify specific investment areas under the new Foreign Direct Investment Act. Also, the expert support will be used to build capacity in Kiribati to develop an EIF Tier 1 proposal.

Vanuatu: Vanuatu has completed the DTIS and engaged in a high-level bilateral workshop with the IF Executive Secretariat, UNOPS and other key partners. As a direct result of the bilateral workshop, it was agreed that Vanuatu would refocus its attention on national trade policy discussions through the National Trade Development Committee and concentrate on deeper inclusion of the Donor Facilitator. Finally, it was agreed that Vanuatu's Ministry of Trade would work with these actors to identify priorities from the DTIS Action Matrix to develop a Tier 1 project proposal to be delivered to the IF ES roughly six weeks from the close of the workshop.