



# **“Assistance for Implementation” (AIM) for R&D projects: Lessons learned**

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# Background

BMBF objectives in R&D projects with countries in transition and in the sustainable development field include:

- innovation and scientific excellence
- improvement of local living conditions
- enhanced inter- and trans-disciplinary cooperation
- new markets for German companies

- Innovative solutions which can be practically implemented and duplicated locally in a market context is therefore a targeted outcome of projects ...
- ... But infrastructural investments related to the implementation of these innovative solutions are beyond BMBF project scope and often also beyond financial means of partner countries alone.

# “Assistance for Implementation” (AIM)

## Objective

Enhancing the chances of implementation and/or duplication of expected technical solutions or concepts delivered by IWRM R&D projects

## Pilot approach

Providing recommendation, guidance and contacts to interested R&D projects esp. regarding:

- the interests/demand of the partner country
- potential synergies with the activities of development banks (IFI) & relevant multilateral institutions (EU, UN, ...)
- synergy with other activities of other German sector ministries

# Pilot approach ...

## Guidance of AIM to R&D projects regarding ...

### Partner Country

- Institutional responsibilities, regulatory framework, programmes, ...
- Conciliation of dialogues with relevant institutions & decision makers
- Support for the drafting of application to administration

### IFI

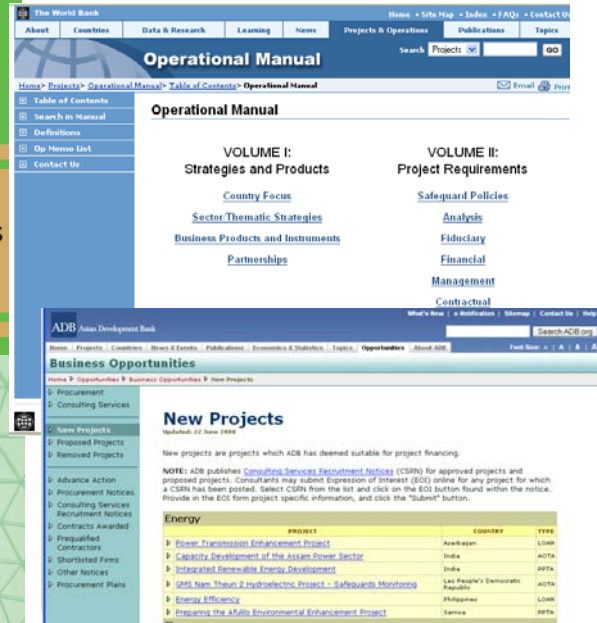
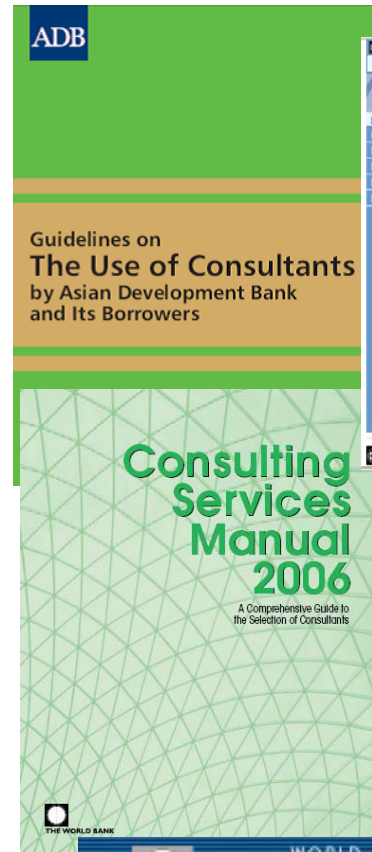
- Strategies, structures, projects, programmes, and instruments
- Networking with IFI working level
- Guidance regarding documentation submitted to IFI (project profile, application, pre-feasibility, etc.)

- Suggestions for the adoption of R&D work packages regarding financial, economic, regulatory framework or institutional aspects preparing implementation
- Planning of workshops for the presentation of R&D projects or findings and networking with decision makers

# Pilot approach ...

**R&D actors = contractor/consultant**

- Information on bidding procedures and related documents
- Networking with decision makers in the partner country
- Cooperation with the German Water Partnership
- ...



# Experience

- Limited possibilities with already approved R&D projects
- Reservation of project coordinators
- Insufficient embedding of targeted solutions in country/local development strategies
- Inappropriate economic validation of targeted innovative solutions
- Increasing need for coordination in partner countries hosting many projects
- Increasing interest of IFI for practical innovative solutions
- Fewer links/synergies to EU (EuropeAID, ...) or UN

**→ Potential implication not only for R&D projects but also for the planning of future funding programmes**

# Possible implications

## R&D Projects

- Taking into consideration relevant sector development strategies and/or country partnership strategies of IFI in project application
  - Desirability of an “implementation concept/ strategy” as part of the R&D project application
  - Need to develop project reports at “pre-feasibility” study level to prepare implementation
  - Demand in the consortium for sufficient financial/ economic and institutional expertise adapted to “implementation facilitation”
  - Desirability for continuous dialogue with implementation decision makers and IFI
- ➔ **Early and systematic orientation of project outcome toward practical implementation and duplication of innovative solutions**

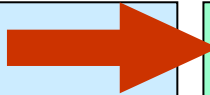
# Possible implications ...



## 3-Phases Project Concept

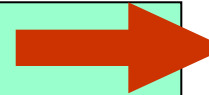
### Piloting

- Essentially technical R&D to test innovative solution
- Domestic policies might be bypassed or ignored for the sake of the research objective



### Demonstration

- Test of applicability of technical solution when embedded in the national policy framework
- Possible recommendation for policy improvement or enhancement for investment facilitation



### Mainstreaming

- (Promotion of) practical and widespread duplication of application and the uptake of investment through a "mainstream" investment programme



# Possible implications

## Systematic cooperation with IFI

- Identification and promotion of synergies with sector or country strategies
- Dialogue with IFI during the planning of funding programmes, review of proposals, monitoring & evaluation of projects
- Availability/ exploitation of professional networks of IFI
- Strengthening the dialogue between R&D scientists and IFI professionals
- Presenting results/ findings of R&D projects to IFI staff and their networks of professionals in partner country
- Favouring cutting edge R&D in fields of interest to IFI (e.g. „down-scaling“ of global climate models)

➔ **Seeking mutually reinforcing cooperation to implement and duplicate most promising proved innovative solutions**

# Possible implications

## Strengthening linkages to Implementing Ministries and Agencies in Partner Country

- Encouraging the participation of sector Ministries and seeking their commitment during the definition phase of projects.
  - Promoting the dissemination of project results to audience of local implementing decision makers
  - Supporting linkages to domestic professional training centres able to disseminate gained knowledge of innovative good practices to implementers
- ➔ **Encouraging the uptake of proved innovative solutions in partner country in a market context approach**



**Thank you very much for your attention!**

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