

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP



**TASK FORCE ON PROJECT QUALITY: PROGRESS
REPORT**

**OPERATIONS EVALUATION DEPARTMENT
(OPEV)**

22 March 1994

PROJECT QUALITY TASK FORCE
PROGRESS REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

Reference is made to the two prior progress reports on this subject, that of 28 October 1993 (ADB/BD/IF/93/156) and that of 27 December 1993 (ADB/BD/IF/93/202) both of which were produced by the Operations Evaluation Office (OPEV).

2. THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE TASK FORCE

2.1 The Fourth Session of the Task Force was held in Abidjan from 10 to 14 January 1994.

2.2 The Minutes of the last Session of the Task Force were approved as were those for the regional meetings held in Nairobi, Harare, Rabat and Abidjan (Francophone and Anglophone) and for various meetings in regional member countries with representatives of Ministries of Finance, Central Banks, other concerned Ministries, consultants, non-governmental organisations and the Federation of African Consultants.

2.3 At the outset of the Fourth Session the Chairman (Mr Knox) presented a paper concerning the proposed "Main Points of the Report". Instead of following the prepared agenda, it was decided that the "Main Points" paper would be reviewed and refined, section by section, such that following the departure of the Task Force members, work could commence in Abidjan on the production of the first draft of the Report text. The tentative chapter headings contained in the "Main Points" were as follows:

1. The African Challenge.
2. ADB Strengths and Weaknesses.
3. The Quality of the Portfolio.
4. The Project Cycle.
5. The Budget, Organisation and Management.
6. Recommendations.

2.4 These chapters were discussed in detail with the authors. It was then decided to revise their titles.

2.5 On Friday 14 January it was agreed that the dates of the Task Force Fifth Session would be 14 to 23 February 1994. The revised and agreed list of chapters was as follows:

1. The Challenge of Development in Africa.
2. The Bank's Portfolio Performance.
3. The Project Cycle.
4. The Bank's Resources and Organisation.
5. Changes in the Bank's Culture.
6. The Bank's Governance.

2.6 During the course of the five working days a meeting was held with representatives of the Bank's Regional and Country Offices. The present and possible future roles of the Offices were reviewed and note was taken of the points raised.

2.7 A presentation on the subject of Disbursements was made to the Task Force by the Deputy Director, FDIS and answers were provided to questions raised.

2.8 The Task Force Chairman also presented his preliminary findings to members of the Bank's Board of Directors and received their views and responses.

3. THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE TASK FORCE.

3.1 The Fifth Session of the Task Force was held in Abidjan from 14 to 23 February 1994.

3.2 Following minor amendments, the Minutes of the Fourth Session were approved.

3.3 The Chairman reported that he presented the preliminary findings of the Task Force, as planned, to the ADF-VII Meeting in Copenhagen. He stated that his presentation had been essentially the same as that given to the Board of Directors. In general the presentation had been well received. The next ADF-VII meeting would be held in Bern commencing on 21 April 1994. At that meeting the participants in the ADF-VII meeting would hope to be able to receive (a) a copy of the Task Force Report and (b) a statement of the initial reaction of the Bank's senior management to the Report.

3.4 First drafts of the six chapters of the Report had been received by the Task Force members prior to their arrival in Abidjan. The drafts were reviewed in the presence of their authors. Work then commenced on the production of the second draft of each chapter. For the most part these were completed prior to the end of the Fifth Session on 23 February.

3.5 The second draft is being revised and a final draft will be discussed during the last meeting of the Task Force scheduled to take place in Abidjan on 21 - 25 March. The final report will then be submitted to the President at the beginning of April.