

Draft AIDE MEMOIRE NEAP 2011

The Annual Joint Review (AJR) was held on the 20th and 21st of July 2011. The Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development presented a draft Aide Memoire at the end of the two day-meeting.

Not all comments and suggestions from the participants are reflected in this Aide Memoire. This is because the NEAP 2010-2012 already captures many of the comments and suggestions from the AJR. There were also joint statements from Development Partners and NGO's of which some recommendations have been included in this Aide Memoire. What we present here below are the main recommendations for refocusing and review of the education sector planning, based on the discussions during the AJR.

The following has been agreed:

General

- After 2 studies (Barriers and Grants studies), 4 reviews (PER, Costing, Review of NEAP and Education Sector Structure) in the last 3 years, it is time for action. There is a long list of recommendations for the Ministry to implement.

Access

- Within the new national school infrastructure plan, stress the importance of access to clean water and sanitation for all schools, in particular for girls.
- Following the support and agreement from the participants in the AJR on most recommendations from the second, revised Barriers to Education support, the TWG Quality will propose to the PS at least 2 measures to implement this year and include the other recommendations in next years' work programmes and the new NEAP 2013-2015.
- To look into 2nd chance education for drop outs.

Quality

- Implement the recommendations from the SISTA 2 report (on learners' assessment of literacy and numeracy) such as

- all EA's should now include action plans for improving literacy and numeracy in their schools or provinces by teaching strategies and monitoring of learners' achievement;
- inclusion of strong assessment component in pre-service teacher training (SICHE/SoE);
- TWG Quality produces a comprehensive action plan to improve teaching and learning and the learning outcomes;
- To assess the quality and relevance of curriculum materials for improving reading skills and achieving literacy;
- Finalise the review of the literacy project, identify funding and start implementation.
- Speed up the implementation of the pilots for the language policy.
- Develop a national literacy policy.
- To put a motivated and skilled teaching force in the centre of our Annual Working Programmes and ensure
 - improved management of teachers by school heads and EAs
 - timely salary payment
 - Non-recruitment of TiTs
 - Training of existing TiTs
 - Disciplinary action for Teacher absenteeism
- To formulate a comprehensive (holistic) action plan to decrease teacher absenteeism and improve teacher competency in the country
- School administration and leadership to put in place a systematic support in inducting new teachers and those transferred from other schools to the new school culture.
- Strengthen grant policy to ensure there is improvement in enrolment data collection.
- Assist the PEA's of Isabel and Renbel province with an action plan to improve the literacy and numeracy results in their schools and support these PEA's with funding and technical assistance where needed. Firstly we need to know the main causes for the disappointing results in literacy. We propose to collaborate and work out the details of this plan with COESI and ASPBAE.
- Support the schools in Isabel and Makira that now have participated in the AJR with at least one or two of the prioritised activities in their school development plans and show the next AJR what has been practically done. The 4 schools can propose their priority to the sector secretariat and local coordinator.

Management

- Continuously improve public financial management
- Link the NER (Net Enrolment Ratio) and GER (Gross Enrolment Ratio) to new population data of 2009 and to agree about estimates for 2010 and beyond.
- Improve data collection and find ways to avoid ‘inflation’ of enrolment figures by schools.
- Establish a research unit in PCRU that also assists PEA’s in the provinces with field research in the provinces for informed decision making and planning.
- After receiving the final draft study on the grants and FFBE, the Ministry will discuss all recommendations and implement these after internal agreement. It will at least result in:
 - The revision of the grant policy this year before 1st of January 2012;
 - The revision of and improving of consistency between financial management manual, grant policies and school development planning;
 - Good central and horizontal communication about these new policies and their implications.
- All EA’s make sure that after the demonstration training by the Ministry of the school committee/board in the first cluster all other schools implement this training before the end of this year. The Inspectorate will monitor this.
- Set up the Taskforce for University in Solomon Islands, as suggested by the Tertiary Education Policy to assist the Government in establishing both a National University as well 4th campus of the USP.
- Establish strong collaboration between MEHRD’s and MHMS’ sector programmes to achieve a healthy, educated and well informed population and in particular target the women and mothers in communication campaigns.
- Develop and sign partnership agreements with NGOs that are committed to implement parts of the NEAP.
- Develop a web page for easy access to information and policies etc by all stakeholders.
- Revitalise the TWG for National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and produce a NQF.