

27/06/2012

Mission REPORT

Project:	"Capacity Building for the ASEAN Secretariat, 2011-2013:: Consulting Services on Structuring and Institutional Development of the ASEAN Integration monitoring Office (AIMO)"
Activity	Support to AIMO for the developing of data bases to monitor AEC implementation and impact, related to the data based country analyses of ASEAN Member States and in-depth studies of relevant AEC issues"
Venue:	1.) Jakarta, Indonesia 24.October -11.November 2011 2.) Jakarta, Indonesia 19.Jun - 22. June 2011
GIZ Project No.:	9913800101
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Report by Klaus Röder (GIZ-Consultant 18.06.-22.06.2011 at ASEC)

The report summarizes the activities and the opinion of the consultant. It is a brief summary of the mission goal, the achievements and progress and product status: Work Program and recommendation of further activities.

It relates to the first mission of the author of 24.10.-11.11.2011 at ASEC and to the documents of that previous mission, which are referenced at the end:

Mission report [8]

A progress report at the end of the mission, [9]

A technical report about the ASEAN integration information platform – ASIP to the contacted stakeholders, [10]

A manual of the use of the ASEAN integration information platform – ASIP for users and administrators [11]

To the current mission there are apart from this mission report two other documents annexed:

A progress report of this mission [12]

A training manual elaborated during the current mission for staff member of ASEAN Stats [13]

The Terms of Reference, recommendations by a prior mission and considerations

A prior mission by Klaus Enders as GIZ consultant (23 May to 30 June 2011) was engaged in support of AIMO and explicitly recommended: *“To monitor progress towards the AEC, AIMO should start assembling a database of relevant indicators, which should be updated frequently and provide the basis for regular reports”*. Further it recommended: *“Along the compliance monitoring dimension, this data base would include/link to all the score card data on progress produced within ASEC under AEC schedules A1 and A2 (free flow of goods and services) for trade integration and A3 and A4 as well as financial services under A2 for financial integration”* and *“.For the impact analysis, with regard to financial integration, AIMO will need data on actual financial stocks, flows, interest rates, stock market data and national accounts. The starting point should be access to the IMF's Financial Statistics (IFS)..”*

Moreover the TOR recommended: *“ASEC's statistical unit should be responsible to prepare and maintain these databases, and ensure all AIMO staff (and perhaps other ASEC staff) has ready (electronic) access”*

The reference to the previous recommendations will end here and we will repeat the recommendation of the first mission of the author:

- Resolve missing data issue (e.g.SME / Trade in Services etc.)
- Resolve issue of access to international data (like IMF, ADB, WB databases)
- ASIP data structure completion
- Indicator concept, calculation and feeding to ASIP
- Resolve issue of Document storage in ASIP (Single Window)
- Continue Training / Briefing of ASEAN Stats Technical staff. Training has been initiated during the project mission
- Definition of indicators

Of the different approaches of hosting the database on a web sever, the variant

- on SQL Server 2003 as an ACCESS enterprise database web based,

has been chosen by ASEAN Stats. One has to remark that this approach is not recommended by DevInfo (Doc [14])

The TOR of this second mission note that the goal of the mission is to:

Support to AIMO country consultations for the elaboration and future development of data based country analyses of ASEAN Member States.

In detail this meant to overcome the current technical difficulties running the data base ASIP on the server and support ASEC Stats with training for the further activities of ASEAN Stats

A preliminary Activity and Training plan before arrival

The following draft schedule of activities has been transmitted to AIMO prior to arrival:

Day 1:

Assessment of shortcomings, finalization of training schedule

I would have to know which server database is used, obviously not a Microsoft SQL Server. If a web based Access is used, this might be the reason for the problem, better would be an open SQL data base. I don't know if Chris Tan (working 11/2011 as a consultant for renewing the ASEAN IT-Infrastructure with USAID) is still at ASEC, he would be a good interlocutor.

Day 2:

Morning: Schedule of the day (briefing of technicians and ASEAN Stats colleagues of day's schedule)

Consultant: Preparing Course content- envisaged contents:

- DevInfo 6 and DevInfo 7 (tb released mid 2012)
- Limits of DevInfo 6 (e.g. No 3 way tables)
- Web based DevInfo, preconditions and limits
- Basic utilization of Web-Based DevInfo

Afternoon: Training on agreed contents (2 hours)

Day 3:

Morning: Schedule of the day (briefing of technicians and ASEAN Stats colleagues of day's schedule)

Consultant: Preparing Course content- envisaged contents:

- Data handling in Web DevInfo – Data Import / Export / Bulk deletion
- Data presentation and modification of presentations:
 - o Graphs
 - o Tables
 - o Maps

Afternoon: Training on agreed contents (2 hours)

Day 4:

Morning: Schedule of the day (briefing of technicians and ASEAN Stats colleagues of day's schedule)

Consultant: Preparing Course content- envisaged contents:

- Data handling in Web DevInfo – Using DB macro language
- Data handling unavailable through normal user interface:
- Basics of SQL language / Macro language (this depends on the current DB in use)
- Exercises on use of SQL language / Macro language

Afternoon: Training on agreed contents (2 hours)

Day 5:

Morning: Schedule of the day (briefing of technicians and ASEAN Stats colleagues of day's schedule)

Consultant: Wrap-up of training days:

- Questions and Answers or additional training
- What's missing: a look at the future and best practices from other countries? (ESDEM, Childinfo Tunisia etc.)

Afternoon: Training on agreed contents (2 hours)

Activities and Trainings for this Mission

Quite self-evident that the actual schedule differed from this proposal, the complete and comprehensive schedule including training material is available at [12]:

Day 1:

Assessment of shortcomings, problems and assessment of requirements for training. A meeting with M. Fathur Rahman staff member of ASAEN Stats allowed assessing the current situation, which was as follows:

Microsoft SQL Server 2003 in place and also used for other intranet activities (Trade etc.). ASIP been renamed to ASIP (Asean Statistical Information Platform)

- ASIP by ACCESS Dbase on SQL Server is accessible and functional
- DB Queries render correct results
- 2 way Tables work all right (3 way tables not implemented in DevInfo 6)
- Maps shown are ok
- Regional Maps like ASEAN-IMT or ASEAN-CLMV not tested

Main problems:

- Modification of resulting Maps limited
- Graphs (Bar and Pie etc.) do NOT show
- Modifications and configuration of DevInfo DB not possible due to lack of administration rights –suspected reason: incorrect transfer of DevInfo DB to SQL Server
- Bulk erase of data not feasible and not known

Day 2:

Priority has been given to the identification and correction of problems and shortcomings together with M. Fathur Rahman and assisted by a system administrator of the Intranet SQL Server. Training schedule has been postponed to the following days.

Correct installation of web services and data base on SQL server. Database Transfer or ASIP (currently ASIP_2012 V2.mdb) has to be done according to Installation manual di60_web_deployment_2003_server_r6.pdf

Main problems solved:

- Modification of resulting Maps now working but limited due to DI 6.0 web version -> DI 7.0 to be released this year.
- Same is true for tables
- Graphs (Bar and Pie etc.) do show and can be modified
- Gallery files (Query results) can be stored and recalled on ASIP
- Modifications and configuration of DevInfo DB possible on SQL server

Problem still open:

- Bulk erase of data on DB

Day 3:

Morning: Schedule of the day (briefing of technicians and ASEAN Stats colleagues of day's schedule)

Consultant: Preparing Training Course content.

First training on 20/062012 for ASEAN Stats staff members: Ms. Elizabeth Alarilla; Ms. Lia Emalia, Ms. Sri Wardhani Bakri, M. Fathur Rachman. Subject of training supported by slide show, see [12]:

- Differences DevInfo 6 and DevInfo 7 (tb released mid 2012)
- Web based DevInfo, preconditions and limits
- Basic utilization of Web-Based DevInfo
- Query results , Data presentation and modification of presentations (Gallery):
 - Graphs
 - Tables
 - Maps
- Overview: Data handling in Web DevInfo – Data Import / Export / Bulk deletion

Day 4:

Morning: Schedule of the day (briefing of technicians and ASEAN Stats colleagues of day's schedule)

Consultant: Preparing Training Course content.

Second training on 21/06/2012 for ASEAN Stats staff members: Ms. Elizabeth Alarilla; Ms. Lia Emalia, Ms. Sri Wardhani Bakri, M. Fathur Rachman. Subject of training supported by slide show, see [12]:

- Data retrieval from World Bank Data Base (DB Doing Business)
- Data handling in Web DevInfo – Using *DevInfo 6.0 Data Admin Interface*
- Create/ Open Template for new indicators, units, sectors (create and modify the data structure in ASIP/ DevInfo- enter new sectors)
- Prepare retrieved data for Data Entry (use Pivot Tables in EXCEL)
- Enter data to ASIP/ DevInfo via *DevInfo 6.0 Data Admin Interface*
- Exercise on the above contents by course participants

Day 5:

Morning: Schedule of the day (briefing of technicians and ASEAN Stats colleagues of day's schedule)

Consultant: Preparing Training Course content.

Wrap-up meeting with Dr. Agus Sutanto head of ASEAN stats, discussion of mission results and future steps and activities as far as ASIP is concerned.

Third training on 22/06/2012 for ASEAN Stats staff members: Ms. Elizabeth Alarilla; Ms. Lia Emalia, M. Fathur Rachman. Subject of training partially supported by slide show, see [12]:

- Wrap-up of training days, handing over of training material
- Questions and Requests for additional training
- What's is to be done: A look at the future and best practices from other countries? Look at DevInfo Fact sheets (http://www.devinfo.org/Di-wiki/index.php?title=Portal:Country_Factsheets) and DiWiki (http://www.devinfo.org/Di-wiki/index.php?title=Main_Page)
- Look at example e.g. Childinfo Tunisia Childinfo Tunisia – Login to <http://www.observatoire-enfance.nat.tn/fr/home.php?p=indicateurs> Login: Klaus PW: RDK_TU_123)
- More Data and DB Structure handling in Web DevInfo – Using DevInfo 6.0 Data Admin Interface
- Create and modify the Meta data in ASIP/ DevInfo
- More on data entry via to ASIP/ DevInfo via DevInfo 6.0 Data Admin Interface
- On Data handling unavailable though normal user interface:
- Basics of handling of ASIP/ DevInfo via ACCESS interface:
- Delete data structures
- Rename, Rearrange data structures
- Mapping of area and mapping of county groups
- Answering to Training requests by ASEAN Stats colleagues

Recommended activities for Product ASIP

- Resolve missing data issue (e.g. SME / Trade in Services etc.)
- Resolve issue of access to international data (like IMF, ADB, WB databases)
- ASIP data structure completion
- Indicator concept, calculation and feeding to ASIP
- Resolve issue of Document storage in ASIP (Single Window)
- Continue Training / Briefing of ASEAN Stats Technical staff. Training has been initiated during the project mission
- Definition of indicators
- Make ASIP on web robust and solve rights concept (has to be resolved by system admin)
- Switch to SQL database either Microsoft or Open Source
- Consider to make (part of) ASIP open to public
- Introduce new version of DevInfo 7.0 asap

- Introduce ASIP on Intranet with care and comprehensive preparation
- Allow access at first to Gallery only (Content of Gallery are query results prepared by ASEAN Stats)
- At second stage allow access of Intranet users to ASIP database.

The reason for the recommendation of this approach: Users will become easily frustrated if they don't understand the handling of the Data Base. Even though it is easy to query for data, the usage has to be prepared by kick-off, training, user coaching. Otherwise another white elephant product is easily possible. The emphasis has to be on added-value for users, data access without consulting ASEAN Stats. For this ASEAN Stats has to know and respond to requests of stakeholders (example [10])

The remaining activities have to be decided by ASEAN-AIMO office and missing structure and data have to be implemented by staff of ASEAN Stats.

I will intermittently and after two visits try to evaluate the quality of this project section according to the DAC criteria as an interim evaluation and attributing marks form 1 to 5 (1 =very good, 2= good, 3=satisfactory, 4= unsatisfactory, 5= clearly inadequate). I am aware that as a consultant I am not in the position to put forward a final evaluation which should be done by independent sources and after some experience of implementing the product:

Criteria	Marks	Remarks
Relevance	1	High relevance for AIMO and the process of integration
Effectiveness	3	So far satisfactory, Effectiveness will depend on suitable introduction and maintenance
Impact	3	Likewise as Effectiveness
Efficiency	3	Likewise as Effectiveness
Sustainability	2	Preconditions of sustainability are good: excellent staff quality, work on ASIP combines well with other activities, risk is overburden of ASEAN staff and not sufficient time which might be attributed to ASIP activities. New training might be needed if new version of DevInfo is introduced or integration criteria (synthetic indicators) will become part of ASIP content

Conclusion of recommendations

As an ad-hoc information system ASIP could be useful to make ASEAN Statistics visible. To measure advances in integration is a complex issue. The current approach is pragmatic: use of available statistics and relate them to the agreed Roadmap. Data reports can be generated easily and for the benefit of users and stakeholders. Use of available indicators and room for future and possible enhancements

It must be clear that staff and time has to be set aside for the feeding and maintenance of such system. Three staff members / Technical Officers at ASEAN Stats are currently maintaining the ASEAN Stats data (Lia Emalia, Sri Warhani Bakri, M.Fathur Rachman) and prepare the publications of ASEAN Stats. These officers should probably be responsible for the technical support of the ASIP. Database administration maintenance is best only done by one officer with one substitute; however data update can easily be maintained by all officers alike

Availability as a web based application with dedicated user rights on an Intranet will be the most appropriate way of dissemination for ASEAN. An open public data base ASIP is another option, please see best practices on training schedule of day 5.

The main criteria for a success should be demand oriented, if stakeholders use the system ASIP, then it will be a success. The response rates, user's frequency and satisfaction should be observed and monitored.

References

- [1] Charting Progress towards Regional Economic Integration ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY SCORECARD. ASEAN Secretariat, March 2010
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- [3] Integrating, Not Integrated A Scorecard of GCC Economic Integration 2011 Booz & Company Inc
- [4] ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint Jakarta ASEAN Secretariat, January 2008
- [5] Roadmap for an ASEAN Community 2009-2015 Jakarta ASEAN Secretariat, 2011
- [6] ASEAN Community progress monitoring system COUNTRY INDICATORS and MONITORING TOOLS Vol 1 and 2 ASEAN and AusAID 2007
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- [14] DevInfo: DI6 Web Deployment Technical Document - di60_web_deployment_2003_server_r6.pdf