

DEBT MANAGEMENT STAKEHOLDERS' CONFERENCE

Oslo, Norway, 5 & 6 March 2008

Panel 11- Scope for Coordination between Service Providers:

A Regional Organisation Perspective-MEFMI

- MEFMI has from inception in 1997 made it a priority to coordinate capacity building activities in the member states with other providers with an objective of minimising duplication of effort. This has worked well in that the capacity building activities have been implemented jointly with all those that have indicated willingness to collaborate with MEFMI. This is done in the form of regional training events, in-country activities in the form of training missions, institutional missions and follow-ups for implementation of specific recommendations.
- For some activities, MEFMI has relied on the member states in identifying capacity gaps in debt management and then went ahead to design intervention programmes in consultation with national officials. It is very common for some member states to write to MEFMI seeking assistance in a specific area. In addressing this, MEFMI has always consulted other willing partners to participate by contributing to building the programme and delivering at an agreed period.
- In designing annual work programmes, MEFMI shares its draft with other technical cooperating partners with a view to soliciting inputs into the draft and to agree on joint delivery. This has worked particularly well with COMSEC, DRI, UNCTAD and UNITAR.
- In the case of the BWI's, the MEFMI secretariat always makes it a point to meet the relevant departments during the annual meetings and request for support in the form of Technical experts for specific activities. This has also worked quite well in that the BWI's commit to provide human and at times financial resources for capacity building activities that would have been planned in the following calendar year.
- At a debt manager's seminar organised recently by MEFMI, debt managers were of the view that their understanding of Debt strategy was different from that of the Bank following the presentation of the DeMPA tool by the WB. There was therefore an expressed need for the Bank to organise regional or country specific training on Debt Strategy to allow for common understanding. Likewise the introduction of Risk Management is in itself a new concept for the region and this calls for capacity building efforts to be intensified in this area. With these new developments, there is scope for increased coordination in the delivery of capacity building by all providers but specifically by the BWI's who are currently on the driving seat in issues of debt strategy.
- MEFMI has an approved budget for the next 4 years to complete phase 3. However, some capacity building activities were scaled down in view of budget

constraints. It would be ideal for MEFMI to effectively participate in the implementation of the newly developed tools and this calls for increased budgetary provision on the understanding that there is advance notification and willingness by the designers of the new methodologies. This would also ensure that the new tools are implemented in the member states.