

Minutes of the PEMPAL TCOP Leadership Group meeting through video conference, February 4th, 2010.

TCOP leadership group held a video conference meeting on February 4th. The main objective of the meeting was to develop a Plan of activities for 2010 and discuss organisation and contents of TCOP workshop to be organised in the first half of 2010.

The meeting was attended by Anila Cili, TCOP chair, Albania; Angela Voronin, Director of the State Treasury of the Republic of Moldova, joined by Stela Vorona, representative of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Moldova; Saidbek Zulpuev, Deputy Minister and Director of the State Treasury of Kyrgyz Republic, joined by Narghiza Dzhumaeva, Head of PFM project office at the MOF in Kyrgyzstan; Ismatullo Hakimov, First Deputy Director of Treasury of the Republic of Tajikistan, joined by Rustam Babaev, Head of PFM project office at the MOF in Tajikistan; Lulzim Ismajly, Director of the State Treasury of Kosovo joined by Arietta Nesiraj-Elshani, representative of the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Kosovo. The meeting was facilitated by TCOP resource team including Elena Nikulina (World Bank) and Ion Chicu (Senior Project Advisor for Moldova MOF).

Elena Nikulina informed the participants about the budget resources allocated to TCOP for 2010 (about 62.000 USD, including a balance of approximately 15.000 USD transferred from 2009.) To not lose the 2009 balance, it has to be committed by the end of May and all the payments to be made by the end of June). Taking into account this information, the participants exchanged ideas for the TCOP Plan of activities for 2010, which is to be elaborated and submitted to the PEMPAL Steering Committee for review and approval at its next meeting scheduled for March.

Participants made proposals for the format, topics, timeframe and location of future activities. The results of the TCOP Survey conducted during the November TCOP plenary meeting held in Ljubljana, served the basis for the discussion. (survey results are posted at http://www.pempal.org/data/upload/files/2009/12/tcop_survey-results.pdf)

As work in small groups was identified as a preferred format for discussions by most of TCOP members, **the leadership group opted for organizing in May 2010 a workshop for a group of member countries** interested in the topic of the event.

TCOP leadership group members proposals for the theme of the May workshop were in line with the top priority topics identified in the November survey.

Based on the discussion, the consensus view was to accept the invitation of the Treasury of Moldova to have a workshop in May in Chisinau for a group of countries interested in the issues related to the use of information technologies in treasury operations, including the issues related to electronic payment system and use of digital signature. The agreed timing for the Chisinau workshop is the second half of May (May 24-26th, or May 18-20, final dates to be confirmed after checking availability of venues in Chisinau).

It was suggested to explore possibilities to invite to the workshop external experts on the matter and have presentations of best practices from advanced countries. Based on successful experience of preparation of the November cash management workshop, it was agreed to prepare a thematic questionnaire to be filled in by all the interested countries as a pre-condition for participation in the event. The final agenda and list of the workshop participants will be confirmed after collecting TCOP members responses to this questionnaire.

Elena Nikulina confirmed the availability of the World Bank team to advise TCOP leadership group on preparation of the May workshop agenda.

The leadership group also discussed the plans for the rest of the calendar year. Thematic proposals for future events were made by the participants, including topics of common interest for joint events with other PEMPAL communities of practice.

While discussing the tentative plans for the second half of 2010, Ismatullo Hakimov from Tajikistan confirmed his colleagues interest in organising a workshop for a small group of countries to share experiences in introduction of the new budget classification and chart of accounts, and indicated that Tajik treasury would be interested to host such workshop in Dushanbe in the fall. Anila Cili launched the idea of organising a joint workshop with Internal Audit COP for discussing issues related to financial management control. Elena Nikulina proposed to discuss the idea with IA COP's leadership and, if agreed, to hold such a meeting in the fall of 2010. All participants agreed that an appropriate location for such joint meeting would be a country with a developed FMC system.

Leadership group also exchanged views on the proposal to join the full PEMPAL plenary for all three COPs that is expected to be discussed at the March Steering Committee meeting. It was agreed that in case the plan for organising a full PEMPAL plenary in the fall of 2010 is confirmed, TCOP fall

meeting could be combined with PEMPAL plenary. TCOP leadership proposed to explore the interest of PEMPAL countries to host the full plenary before looking for other locations.

In conclusion, it was decided that Ion Chicu will prepare the minutes of the leadership group VC discussion and prepare a draft of the community's Action Plan for 2010. Both documents will be circulated to the leadership group for review and submission to PEMPAL Steering Committee by early March.