

Partner focus

# World Bank

Established in 1944, the World Bank provides low-interest loans, interest-free credits and grants to developing countries for investment in education, health, public administration, infrastructure, financial and private sector development, agriculture and environmental and natural resource management. One of the organisation's strategic goals is to help countries integrate education into national economic strategies and develop holistic education systems responsive to varying socioeconomic needs.



ACER's World Bank-funded work extends from India to Ethiopia on projects involving national assessments, reviews and in-country consultancy.

ACER is currently working on a World Bank commissioned project in Tajikistan to establish a National Assessment Centre (NTC). The NTC will manage the implementation of a sustainable system of university entrance, as well as the expansion, improvement and better use of national tests and the growth of an assessment culture that allows students at all grade levels to be tested. Once established, the NTC will provide Tajikistan with a fresh approach to educational standards. The funding for the project has been allocated by the Russia Education Aid for Development (READ) program, a collaboration of

the Government of Russia and the World Bank.

The World Bank has also engaged ACER to work with the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) in Bangladesh following recent primary school curriculum reform. After a national sample assessment of students in grades 3 and 5 was conducted by the DPE in 2006, ACER stepped in to provide advice and quality assurance of the national primary assessment. ACER's consultancy involves providing short-term practical support to the DPE in delivering an improved assessment program in 2010 and identifying long-term strategies to support capacity-building within the system. The practical nature of the consultancy work focuses on delivering a world-class, system-wide assessment

program for Bangladesh primary education.

Further assistance is being provided to improve the Bangladesh education system at the secondary level as well. ACER is working with the government to develop a national assessment system that will measure student learning in secondary and higher-secondary schools and in turn evaluate the performance of the education system. As well as monitoring the health of the secondary education system, the Secondary School Quality Learning System Assessment (SSQLAS) will provide data for policy makers, provide feedback for curriculum development, build local capacity and enable comparisons with relevant international standards. ACER is providing expertise and skills to the Bangladesh National Learning Assessment Board (BANLAB) with the aim of embedding a world-class assessment culture in the country.

In 2007 ACER began working with the Indian Government to help strengthen its national assessments. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), - translated from the Hindi as 'Education for All' - is a large, World Bank-sponsored reform project and part of the government's plan to provide universal elementary education through community ownership of the school system. ACER was commissioned to prepare a technical note for the project, which includes advice on increasing learning under the SSA project as well as strategies to boost school attendance.

