

## Assessing the policy influence of research: A case study of governance research in Viet Nam

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As development processes become ever more complex, there is growing demand for knowledge and for analytical products that provide solid evidence to inform policy changes and reforms. International donors exert considerable effort worldwide on the production of knowledge products such as country development reports, but the practice of monitoring their impact is relatively new. This Background Note describes a case study of one attempt to assess the impact of a knowledge product: The *Vietnam Development Report 2010 – Modern Institutions* (VDR 2010).

The VDR 2010 was funded, in part, by a trust fund from the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and was launched officially in December 2009 by the World Bank and 13 other development partners working in Viet Nam. The attempt to assess the impact of this knowledge product, reviewed in this Background Note, was ODI's 2011 study *Assessment of the delivery of the Vietnam Development Report 2010 – Modern Institutions and its impact on policy debates around institutional reforms in Vietnam*, which we will refer to as the 'Assessment of the VDR 2010'.

Viet Nam has seen sustained economic growth and rapid reductions in poverty since the early 1990s. During the country's post-war period, from 1975 to the mid-1980s, its development focused chiefly on reconstruction and food security. This was followed, from the mid-1980s, by 'socialist-oriented' market reforms that continue to this day and that lifted the country into

middle-income status by 2010. Viet Nam now strives to become a modern industrialised country by 2020, which will require significant reforms to run a country that will have greater global economic integration and a more complex, knowledge-based economy. The Government aims to establish modern and accountable institutions to manage and sustain the reform process.

The VDR 2010 represents a joint perspective from the donor community on progress and prospects for Viet Nam's development of modern and accountable institutions. Its influence on policy reforms lies in both the quality of research and the process that led to the research outputs and their communication and dissemination. This Background Note describes the process and tools used to conduct the policy influence assessment and reflects on what was planned, what actually happened, and the resulting lessons learned. It will not focus on the results of the Assessment of the VDR 2010 itself, but serve as a reflective contribution to the relatively small body of knowledge on the challenges and opportunities in assessing the impact of policy-oriented research.

This Background Note is produced jointly by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), the World Bank, and DFID, and brings together, therefore, three useful perspectives.

- ODI conducted the Assessment of the VDR applying processes and tools to measure the policy influence of research that ODI's Research and Policy in Development (RAPID) programme has developed in recent years. We refer in particular to Harry Jones's *A Guide to Monitoring and Evaluating Policy Influence* (2011) and Ingie Hovland's *Making a Difference: M&E of Policy Research* (2007).

- The World Bank led the preparation of the VDR 2010 and communication on its findings. As a key part of the World Bank’s mandate is to influence policy and institutional debates surrounding governance, the Bank also wants to understand better how to assess the impact of its efforts.
- DFID participated in and partially financed the preparation of the VDR. Given its increasing focus on demonstrating the results and impact of its interventions, and its appreciation that the VDR was a potential milestone in the development discourse in Viet Nam, DFID called for and financed the Assessment of the VDR. DFID recognised that this was bound to be an experimental and innovative evaluation that would help DFID develop and improve methodologies to capture change and contribution.

These three perspectives have one thing in common: an interest in understanding how well the tools measure policy influence work in practice, and how they can be improved.

### Is measuring policy influence like measuring thin air?

Policy influence through research and knowledge is possible. It requires, above all, clarity on the policy change that the research is pursuing, which helps when assessing and measuring the level of influence that has been achieved. In their analysis of the role of evidence and ideas in policy processes, Keck and Sikkink (1998) identified five different types of policy change:

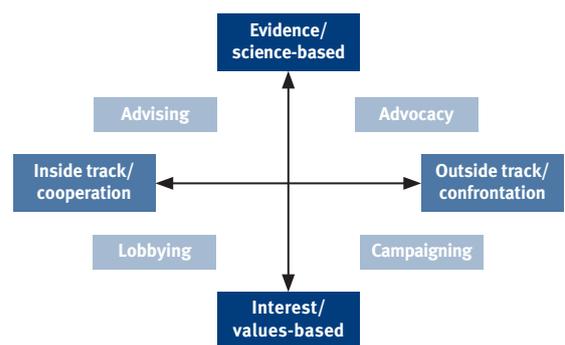
- **Framing debates and getting issues on the political agenda:** policy change is interpreted as drawing attention to new issues through public communication and awareness-raising initiatives. This can lead to a rethinking of dominant values and policy priorities that were not previously part of public policy debates.
- **Encouraging commitments from states and other policy actors:** persuading state and non-state actors to endorse international declarations or conventions and modify national policy positions in favour of, perhaps, marginalised groups. For example, the introduction of the vocabulary of the Millennium Development Goals into the policy debate can put pressure on policy-makers to articulate new or different country-specific development plans and policies.
- **Securing procedural change at international and domestic level:** policy influencing can also be achieved by remoulding the process through which policy decisions are made. The caveat is that procedural changes alone cannot secure better

policies, but they can open spaces for dialogue and bring state and civil society actors closer together. This can, in turn, result in policy changes.

- **Influencing policy and legislation:** there is a tendency to see changes in policy, e.g. budget increases or the passage of new legislation, as indicators of effective policy influence. Keck and Sikkink argue that influencing policy content is one important element of policy change, but does not, in itself, constitute policy change.
- **Changing the behaviour of policy actors, civil society actors and citizens:** this is the ultimate, long-term goal of evidence-based policy influencing. This is reached when, for example, new policies are implemented so effectively that they improve people’s lives or when minority ethnic group candidates are viewed as equals in political elections. Keck and Sikkink acknowledge that this is the most complex area to evaluate, given that the change process is seldom linear.

Policy influencing can be achieved through activities that lead to specific policy research outputs. Start and Hovland (2004) distinguish between two intertwined dimensions (Figure 1 below). In the first (the horizontal axis), policy influencing is pursued by choosing the balance between an inside track approach, which involves close cooperation with decision-makers, and an outside track where policy influence is pursued by putting pressure on policy actors on specific problems. The second dimension (the vertical axis) shows that policy influence can be balanced between evidence- and science-based, or interest- and value-based. For Start and Hovland the intersection between the two axes defines four policy-influencing approaches. Where research evidence is used as the main source of policy influence practiced through close cooperation with policy-makers they speak of policy influencing through advice. When the close cooperation is exploited to influence policy actors through specific corporate interests, Start and

Figure 1 - Policy influencing approaches



Source: Start and Hovland (2004)

Hovland speak of lobbying. When evidence is used to confront decision makers they speak of advocacy. Campaigning occurs when interests and values are used to confront policy-makers.

### Measuring the policy influence of research: monitoring areas and suggested tools

For Ingie Hovland (2007), the complexity of the link between research and policy makes it difficult to speak of *impact* as in the case of traditional development assistance initiatives with more tangible outcomes, because the impact of research is multi-faceted. Hovland distinguishes between the *instrumental impact* of research on policies, which usually occurs when the research is the rationale for organising conferences, seminars, and public events, and the *conceptual impact* of research when research is converted in new ways to generate debate on a certain policy issue. In both cases it is more correct to speak of the contribution of the research rather than attribution, which complicates the assessment of influence.

The implication, argues Hovland, is that the assessment of the influence of research needs to move beyond the analysis of the impact of the single piece of research, as this fails to take into account the policy influence that can emerge from its production and dissemination. Hovland suggests breaking the policy influence of research into five measurable areas for monitoring and investigation. These areas allow the gathering of the qualitative and quantitative information required to unlock the full influence of research on policy (Table 1).

In this section we have described the principles that underpin the investigation of the policy influence of the VDR 2010. Policy influence through research outputs such as the VDR 2010 requires clarity on the policy change(s) that are sought, as well as the policy influence approach and activities. The framework developed by Hovland can then help to select the most relevant areas to investigate during the assessment.

In the next section we turn to the VDR 2010 and describe the process that has been taken to assess its influence. In doing so, we aim to highlight the difference between what was planned and the actual changes that were made during the assessment activities.

### How did VDR 2010 work in practice?

The VDR 2010 is part of a series of annual development reports that began in 2002 and is a key space for development partners to share their viewpoints on key economic issues for Viet Nam's development. The VDRs have been managed by the World Bank in close collaboration with other development partners. However, while 14 partners contributed their time, knowledge and resources to the VDR 2010<sup>1</sup>, the VDR

**Table 1: Areas of monitoring and evaluation of the policy influence of research**

Areas of M&E	Purpose	Suggested tools
Evaluation of strategy and direction of the policy research	Assess the basic plan/strategy of the research to reach its policy objective	Logframe Analysis, Social Network Analysis, Impact Pathways
Evaluation of the research management approach	Assess the system in place to ensure that the strategy is carried out and that high quality policy research is produced	Light Touch Quality Audits of Management Processes and Approach, Fit for Purpose Reviews, Appreciative Inquiry
Evaluation of research outputs	Assessment of the tangible products and services that a research has produced	Peer Review of Articles and Research Reports, Evaluation of Briefing Papers, Evaluation of Websites, Evaluating of Networks, After Action Reviews
Evaluation of research uptake	Assessment of the direct responses to a piece of research	Impact Logs, Citation Analysis, User Surveys
Evaluation of outcomes and impacts	Assessment of change in behaviour, knowledge and policies, capacities and practices to which the research has contributed directly or indirectly	Outcome Mapping, Most Significant Change, Episode Studies, Innovation Stories

Source: Hovland, 2007

2010 was supported largely by the strategic agreement partnership between the World Bank and DFID.

The partnership, which is defined by the Governance and Poverty Policy Analysis and Advice Programme (GAPAP), runs from July 2007 to July 2012 and aims to improve evidence-based policy making on governance and poverty in Viet Nam. What distinguishes the VDR 2010 from other VDRs has been an unusual emphasis on its dissemination, made possible by the GAPAP's flexible financing, and a requirement in the GAPAP work plan for an assessment of the impact of policy influencing activities such as ODI's Assessment of the VDR 2010. A summary of the key findings of this Assessment is shown in Box 1 (overleaf).

The VDR 2010 was launched to coincide with the yearly Consultative Group meeting on 3-4 December 2009 in Ha Noi. Four thousand copies (two-thirds of them in Vietnamese) have been distributed to government agencies, the media, participants at seven presentation events, and to 64 provincial public libraries.

The next section looks at the process of conducting the Assessment of the VDR 2010.

### Scope and activities of the Assessment of the VDR 2010

The VDR 2010 is a policy research output and, until recently, the policy influence of research was rarely, if ever, assessed. Too often, the assumption is that

**Box 1: Main findings of the Assessment of VDR 2010**

- The report is appreciated for its quality and analytical rigour, its historical perspective on governance and institutional reforms and trends in Viet Nam.
- The process of consultation and collaboration, which led to the publication of the VDR 2010, is considered good and well-managed by the Governance Team at the World Bank.
- The general consensus among respondents is that the style of the VDR 2010 is fit for purpose and suits its audience(s).
- The implicit recommendations described as suggestions and included in the main text of the VDR 2010 have contributed to the positive response to the report.
- The VDR 2010 communication strategy has been well managed, with particular appreciation for the seven public dissemination events held in 2010.
- There was evidence of the VDR 2010 being cited in discussion or being used in the design of programmes and projects and in teaching.
- Mechanisms to track uptake had some shortcomings that could be (and were) easily fixed.

Source: Pellini et al. (2011)

once research is printed and distributed it is somehow automatically read by someone. However, research outputs such as the VDR 2010 are now being assessed more thoroughly for three key reasons:

- policy influence is now stated explicitly as one objective of policy research activities
- research aims to contribute to the emergence of an evidence-based culture of policy decision-making
- there is a growing need to justify the use of financial resources by showing the results that have been achieved, and this now applies to research products and activities that were once shielded from such scrutiny.

The Assessment of VDR 2010 was conducted between February and May 2011, 16 months after the report was launched and about six months after the end of formal dissemination activities in August 2010. To put this in context, the Assessment of the VDR 2010 focused on discussions and debates related to two of the policy change categories described earlier:

- *framing debates and getting issues on the political agenda* by suggesting governance reforms and the development of modern and accountable public institutions to guide the next phase of Viet Nam’s development
- *discursive commitment* by state and non-state actors to articulate strategies and policies to

develop modern and accountable institutions over the next ten years.

The initial plan suggested a focus on policy discussions and debates through an analysis of uptake and outcomes of/from the VDR 2010. The evaluation of the overall strategies to which the VDR 2010 contributed (i.e., the World Bank’s Country Partnership Strategy and the GAPAP agreement with DFID) was not part of the initial plan of the Assessment of the VDR 2010. Similarly, the assessment of the management approach that led to the delivery of the VDR 2010 was not included explicitly in the initial plan. The analysis of policy impact was also excluded as VDRs continue to sell for five years, but are downloaded and have influence even beyond that.

The analysis of *uptake* was intended to provide information on the direct response to the VDR 2010 by collecting data on downloads and hits on the World Bank Viet Nam website. The plan also included a light touch citation analysis to assess to what extent the VDR 2010 (English and Vietnamese versions) has been used as a reference source for media, reports, policy documents and research publications.

The analysis of the *outcomes* was planned to complement the uptake analysis and help to understand the direct and indirect influence the VDR 2010 has had on knowledge and on policy discussions and debates.

In sum, the plan was for the analysis of uptakes and outcomes to help assess the following:

- the perceived quality of the VDR 2010
- the perception about the VDR 2010 communication strategy
- the identification of specific areas/sectors in which the VDR 2010 has had influence or was expected to have an influence
- the actors and networks that contributed to the influencing of the VDR 2010.

**The research methodology**

The initial plan included the gathering of data and information through semi-structured interviews and, when appropriate, focus group discussions with policy-makers, journalists, policy advisors in donor organisations, and representatives of civil society organisations working on governance reforms. To conduct the assessment, deliver the agreed outputs and overcome the language barrier, ODI planned to work in close collaboration with a local research institute. The staff of the local research institute would conduct interviews in Vietnamese with government officials and local NGOs. ODI staff would manage the project and conduct interviews with the staff of international organisations. The transcripts in English of all interviews were to be analysed with MaxQDA, a qualitative data analysis software that is very useful for

coding, analysing, and interpreting textual data such as transcripts and interview summaries.

In order to provide evidence of the VDR 2010 influence on project and programme design and/or the development of specific strategies by the Government of Viet Nam, the initial plan suggested to try to identify whenever possible:

- *stories of change* that would also include a critical reflection on factors contributing to the influence, or lack of influence of the VDR 2010, including links or references to more detailed information
- *episode studies* to help to map the direct and indirect contributions of the VDR 2010 on policy changes by identifying a specific policy discussion and tracking back the influence of the VDR at key decision making points.

We are still learning about the assessment of the influence of policy research. In the case of the VDR 2010 we began this policy influencing assessment with an open mind, testing ways to go about it and emphasising what could be learned from the assessment process itself. The difference between the activities that were planned and those that were carried out emerged from the intentions of the three organisations involved (World Bank, DFID and ODI RAPID) to test tools and processes and modify some of the activities along the way. These are, after all, innovative and experimental exercises that can be improved by having a flexible approach to learn from what works, but, more importantly, what does not work in a specific context and make corrections during the process.

### What happened and what changes were made along the way?

The process of assessing the VDR 2010 began in February 2011 with the development of a study approach that was shared with the World Bank team to agree on activities and deliverables. This was followed by the definition of the terms of references for the local research institute with which ODI collaborated.

### Uptake and Internet traffic

The data collection focused first on the uptake of the VDR 2010. The World Bank team gathered quantitative data on the sales of the VDR 2010 (English and Vietnamese versions) from the Vietnam Development Information Center in Ha Noi and data from downloads, either in English or Vietnamese, of the VDR 2010. The data on the Internet traffic showed that the English version of the VDR 2010 was the most downloaded document on the World Bank's Viet Nam website in 2010. Unfortunately, the data for the Vietnamese version were incomplete: it was not possible to track downloads of

the Vietnamese version consistently from January 2010 to February 2011. Fortunately, the issues were easily identified and were fixed even before the completion of the Assessment of the VDR 2010 – a 'quick win' from the exercise. The estimated shelf life of the VDR 2010 means that the monitoring of sales and downloads of the report will continue for a few more years to come.

### Uptake and citation analysis

The search for citations was carried out by adapting the framework suggested by Hovland (2007) and Googling keywords in English and Vietnamese in the following categories<sup>2</sup>:

- development agency documents
- government policy / strategy documents
- international NGO and Vietnamese NGO documents
- training manuals / How to Guides
- newspapers articles
- general Internet citations

Despite best efforts, the citation analysis proved more difficult than expected. We were probably too optimistic at the outset about the time required to conduct a comprehensive search. This may be due to the fact that either the search engine returned too many results, which could not be reviewed thoroughly, or that the advanced function of Google was not used fully. It was decided, therefore, to make the search for citations more specific as described in Box 2.

A key lesson here is that although citations of articles and papers published by academic journals are fairly easy to track, this task is more difficult for policy research products such as the VDR 2010. Downloadable copies of the VDR 2010 were posted on multiple sites, both within

#### Box 2: The challenges of Internet searches

The initial search, which included Vietnamese websites or websites of organisations working in and on Viet Nam, was expanded to include international scholarly articles. During the citation analysis we also made full use of the advanced functions of search engines, using for example, the 'inurl:' function that allows a search of keywords only in url addresses (e.g. VDR 2010 inurl:worldbank). It is important to bear in mind that results returned by the Google search engine may be tailored to the search history of the person conducting the search. This has been defined by Pariser (2011) as the 'filter bubble effect'. Pariser points out that Google search results have been personalised since 2009: our search and browsing history is like a fingerprint that suggests our perceived preferences to Google's algorithms. The obvious risk is that citation analysis becomes distorted by the personal profile and perceived preference of the various users in the team. Pariser notes that it is possible to disable the personalisation function in Google search engine, but not many people are aware of this.

and outside of the World Bank’s system, meaning that download counts underestimated the true number of downloads. Similarly, the VDR 2010 was cited in many different ways, making it difficult to get a true count of citations. For example, the same report was found to be cited as ‘Vietnam Development Report 2010’, ‘Viet Nam Development Report 2010’, ‘Vietnam Development Report (VDR) 2010’, ‘Viet Nam Development Report (VDR) 2010’, and ‘VDR 2010’. In addition, it is sometimes cited merely as ‘according to a World Bank report’. The wide range of formats for citation, which are multiplied when the Vietnamese language version is factored in, makes it difficult to track citations accurately.

**Policy influence analysis and semi-structured interviews**

The qualitative interviews undertaken for the Assessment of the VDR 2010 showed that it has been mentioned and used in a number of ways that may be difficult to track with a web-based citation analysis (See Table 2). While the definition identification of specific websites and the use of an advanced search function helped, it must be recognised that there are limitations in conducting citation analysis of policy research products such as the VDR 2010 that are hard to overcome. Citation analysis has, therefore, been seen as a complement to the collection of the qualitative data on policy influence from interviews and case studies.

The information and data about the influence of the VDR 2010 on debates and discussions (i.e. outcomes) have been collected using largely semi-structured interviews. A total of 32 informants from government institutions, donors, and Vietnamese research organisations were selected in collaboration with the World Bank team. The semi-structured interviews focused on the process that led to the production of the VDR 2010, the perceived quality of the VDR 2010, and the communication approach that was adopted for the release and dissemination of the report.

During the initial days of fieldwork in Ha Noi it became clear that the local research institute staff could not run the interviews independently. Cultural norms place great importance on seniority (as in many other countries). It was agreed, therefore, that the relatively young staff of the local research institute would manage the schedule of the interviews, but that most actual interviews would be conducted by ODI staff. The national staff would also accompany ODI staff to interviews that would require Vietnamese interpretation and conduct the citation analysis search described above. As a result, the number of semi-structured interviews was smaller than initially planned and focus group discussions were not possible.

The Assessment of the VDR 2010 did not produce *stories of change* or *episode studies* as planned. This was

**Table 2: Examples of uptake and use of the VDR 2010**

<b>UNICEF</b>	Referred to the VDR 2010 in the design of the Social Audit Pilot Project implemented in four Vietnamese provinces in collaboration with Ministry of Planning and Investments and the Central Institute for Economic Management.
<b>Institute for Legislative Studies at the National Assembly</b>	Used the VDR 2010 as a source of evidence for internal discussions about the discrepancy between the national annual growth rate of 7% and the 12% rates from the Provincial GDP index. Several reports prepared by Institute for Legislative Studies in 2010 used VDR 2010 as a background paper, while not quoting it directly.
<b>Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)</b>	The VDR 2010 was used as a reference for the planning exercise on the next five years of Canadian support to the Government of Viet Nam.
<b>Training Centre for Elected Representatives</b>	During the 8th session of the National Assembly, several members mentioned the VDR 2010 when discussing decentralisation and devolution, conflict of interest (linked to management of natural resources), roles of central government vs. local government, and the shortcomings of administrative reforms. However, there is no public record of these discussions.
<b>Fulbright Economics Teaching Programme in Ho Chi Minh City</b>	The VDR is used as a textbook for two courses: Law and Public Policy and Public Governance, which involve 60 public officials.
<b>AusAID</b>	The VDR 2010 was used as input into the definition of the Anti-Corruption Training Programme that was developed for staff of the Communist Party Inspectorate and the office of the Steering Committee for Anti-Corruption

Source: Pellini et al. (2011).

partly because 18 months after the official launch of the VDR 2010 it is still too early to document stories of policy change. The VDR 2010 was titled *Modern Institutions* and institutions change slowly. The VDR 2010 examined changes over the previous two decades, and ended by asking ‘what will the next decade look like?’ In other words, the VDR focused more on long-term ideas than on short-term technical fixes. An assessment through the identification of stories of change will only become useful in the coming years. However, the Assessment of the VDR 2010 was able to find early examples of the use and uptake of the VDR 2010.

The evaluation of the management approach (the second area of M&E in Table 1) that led to the production and dissemination was not included explicitly in the assessment plan. However after a few interviews it became evident that this was an important area. First of all, as the VDR 2010 is co-authored by the World Bank and another 13 international donors, it was important to assess those donors’ perceptions of the process led by the World Bank. This process began with direct participation in the conceptualisation and drafting of the VDR 2010, followed by various rounds of consultations between the participating donors, a thorough review

approach, and a communication and dissemination approach at national and local level. Second, because the VDR 2010 (like other VDRs) is essentially a donors' product, it was important to assess the perception of the process by Vietnamese officials and scholars who provided comments to various drafts and sections of the report in their personal capacity. After all, the VDR 2010 provides implicit and explicit policy recommendations, so it was important to secure a way for the Government to contribute during the process to enhance the acceptance of the report by government institutions: an *inside track* collaboration as described by Start and Hovland (2004) in Figure 1.

### Lessons learned from the assessment exercise

In this Background Note we have reflected on the process of assessing the policy influence of the VDR 2010. First, we described various types of monitoring and evaluation tools to assess the policy influence of research outputs in the context of different types or policy change and policy influencing activities. We then described which tools and processes were planned and used in the assessment of the VDR 2010. This was the first time that the World Bank in Viet Nam has undertaken this kind of qualitative influence study of a VDR and the project must, therefore, be seen an experiment that should lead to reflection on what has been learned.

The aim and purpose of the Assessment of the VDR 2010 has been to examine the report's influence on the stakeholders who were also involved in the report's development. The VDR 2010 does not aim to influence a specific policy. Rather, it is an analytical product that has far broader policy influencing goals. Therefore, the product and its influence are as important as the process that led to its publication. This makes it essential to understand the donors that signed up to the VDR 2010 and their opinion of this process, as well as the contribution of the VDR 2010 itself to discussion and debate among donors, government agencies and also between donors and government institutions.

The assessment of the policy influence of research products such as the VDR 2010 requires a familiarity with different definitions of policy change, different approaches for policy influences, and the knowledge of processes and tools to assess research outputs, the process for producing them, and their policy outcomes and impact. Assessments such as the one described in this Background Note could, in the future, include capacity development as part of the assessment project of the local research institute. This could help to support local institutions to expand their knowledge and skills in this relatively new area of research and analysis and facilitate the tailoring of specific tools and processes to the Vietnamese context and language.

Some specific lessons have been learned from the assessment:

- A policy influence assessment should be part of the plan for producing and communicating research outputs such as the VDR 2010.
- Citation analysis requires time and has to be seen as a complement (with its own limitations) to the qualitative analysis of uptake and influence.
- It is important to be aware of the limitations and distortions caused by Pariser's 'filter bubble effect'. This effect also has an impact on the dissemination of research outputs through the Internet as policy-makers, practitioners and researchers may also be shielded by their own filter bubbles. To reach the target audience there is, therefore, a need to develop a communications strategy that includes public events such as the dissemination and presentations organised for the VDR 2010 and to link the dedicated web page to platform and online spaces known to be accessed by the target audience for the output.
- External assessments of the policy influence of research outputs should complement the internal self-assessment of policy influence that could monitor their quality (as in the peer review and consultation process of the VDR 2010) and a systematic monitoring of uptake (data on Internet traffic, sales, distribution, and media coverage, etc.).
- It is difficult to develop stories of change from a single research output such as the VDR 2010, especially after such a short period of time. A longer time frame is needed to assess the impact of such a study on institutional change.

To conclude, fostering a culture of evidence-based policy-making requires the development of a critical mass, both from the supply and the demand side of policy research. This critical mass can then help to open up politics to the suggestions provided by research results and analysis. To create and nurture this critical mass it is necessary, as we have seen with the VDR 2010, to produce high quality research and design a solid communication and dissemination approach. These should be followed by an assessment of the policy influence of research and the change in perception towards research outputs such as the VDR 2010. The experience with the Assessment of the VDR 2010 shows that policy influencing programmes have to take a long view – one that sees policy influence assessments, such as the one described in this Background Note, as part of the policy influencing process.

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## References, endnotes and useful resources

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### Endnotes

1. Asia Development Bank (ADB), Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Denmark, Department for International Development (DFID) United Kingdom, European Commission (EC), Finland, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), Sweden, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), United Nations, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), World Bank.
2. Keywords were: VDR 2010, Vietnam development report 2010, Vietnam Development Report 2010 – Modern Institutions, Báo cáo phát triển Việt Nam 2010.

### Resources

Vietnam Development Report 2010 – Modern Institutions available at [www.worldbank.org/vn/vdr2010](http://www.worldbank.org/vn/vdr2010)

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