South-South Cooperation between Argentina and Dominica Island

A capacity building experience in tourism

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‘Parallel Session IV (a) on Young Scholar’s Forum on SSC’
International Conference on South-South Cooperation
March 10-11, 2016
New Delhi
The institutional architecture of Argentina to address South-South cooperation is centralized in a specific area called Fund of South-South Cooperation and Triangular FO.AR.

Promotes joint technical cooperation initiatives with other countries through mechanisms of partnership, cooperation and mutual support.

The Mercosur and Caribbean region has been a priority within Argentina's cooperation policies in the last decade.

In 2013 a new international agreement was entered into with Dominica Island to cooperate with the diversification of the regional economies.
In many developing countries, tourism is one of the main sources of wealth and income for individuals, families, firms and governments; and, still in other countries, the main source of foreign exchange earnings and the most viable and sustainable economic development option (UNWTO, 2013).

In the last 12 years Argentina has been developing tourism and heritage conservation policies, which are a reference in the region.

Dominica has a wide variety of natural and cultural resources in a reduced space. 60% of the island is covered by forest and it has three National Parks, one of them declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.
The Ministry of Tourism of Argentina (MINTUR) led the project named “Strengthening the tourism sector in Dominica Island” with technical assistance from representatives of the National Parks Administration of Argentina and National University of Avellaneda.

The general purpose of the project was “to create processes to design and execute policies, programs and instruments to strengthen the tourist industry and the public-private agreement for the proper rise of the tourist industry.”

This project, together with most of SSC in which Argentina participates, was focused on the technical transparency of the knowledge and experience of the Argentine experts for the development and strengthening of the local capacities and capacity building of the destination.
The United Nations Environment Programme (2006) defines capacity building as “building abilities, relationships and values that will enable organizations, groups and individuals to improve their performance and achieve their development objectives.”

**Capacity Building**

- Training programme in a host country
- Sending experts to partner countries
- Scholarships
- Third country training programmes
- Deploying volunteers
- Conducting feasibility studies
- Prototype production and training centre

*Source: Chaturvedi, 2016*
The project included a series of training sessions about Spanish called “Basic Spanish-speaking training” addressed specially to tour guides.

Delegates from the participating organizations actively take part in the development of tourism and country conservation policies, which gives value to the technical transference process and to the overall project.

Technical teams from both countries involved in the project participated as volunteer representatives of the organizations where they were working.
In June, a mission led by a specialist of the Ministry of Education of Argentina identified three South-South Cooperation proposals to be developed in the coming months with their counterparts from the Ministries of Education of St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada.

The objective of these proposals is to promote capacity-building and sharing between teachers, managers, students, and staff in order to contribute significantly to the development of our region.

The mission allowed the exchange of experiences and needs in key issues, such as the training of Spanish teachers and the inclusion of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the classroom.

The exchange was very productive and after the mission, several possibilities for South-South Cooperation projects were explored.

In the area of Spanish teaching, a key aspect to achieve a better understanding with the Latin American region, one possibility is to strengthen the capacities of government staff in charge of the coordination of Spanish teaching in the educational system, of tutors in charge of support and the training of Spanish teachers in the primary and
Tour guides get training in Spanish

Dominica News Online - Monday, May 19th, 2014 at 8:46 AM

Thirty tour guides have completed a four day basic Spanish course geared at improving their customer service skills.

The guides received their certificates from Head of Product Development of the Discover Dominica Authority (DDA) Kathleen Cuffy on Friday afternoon.

The training was done in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism in Argentina.

Cuffy in an address to the participants reminded them that they should continue to train in an attempt to sharpen their skills.

“Tourism Awareness Month 2014 focuses on training and refreshing the skills of persons in the various sectors. It shows our commitment towards training and particularly ongoing training. Training is one thing but we have to continue to sharpen our skills in various areas,” she said.

According to her, tourism taxi operators have already completed a one week training in Tourism and pointed out that other frontline personnel such as vendors, customs, immigration and port security officers will also undergo training.

Tourism promotional material in Spanish
Technical team from Argentina and Dominica Island
Beside the difficulty in measuring the impact that any project may have, in this case it was extremely difficult to measure the effectiveness of building local capacities in territory.

The measuring was carried out exclusively over the results whose execution was cared for Argentine agents because there appeared difficulties at the time of receiving technical cooperation from Dominica towards Argentina.

**IS IT POSSIBLE TO MEASURE THE IMPACT OF A PROJECT BASED ON DEVELOPING CAPACITY BUILDING IN 6/12 MONTHS?**

**ARE A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES ENOUGH TO TALK ABOUT CAPACITY BUILDING?**
UNEP suggests 6 actions for this problem (2006) which may help improve the effectiveness of Capacity Building. These were analyzed under a critical approach with relation to the development of the project:

1. Identifying needs and building on existing capacities
2. Being clear about the objectives
3. Using a wide range of capacity building approaches
4. Target the right people to build a critical mass
5. Making the training-of-trainers approach work
6. Institutionalizing capacity building programmes at regional and national levels
Thank you for your attention

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