



MTC Experience Across the Globe: China

BACKGROUND INFORMATION



In March 2008, MTC subcontracted with AECOM International to provide consultation on the Small Cities and Towns Development Demonstration project in three Chinese provinces. Funded through the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the project included a 6-month contract to analyze proposed provincial development. The contract provided for the research and “due diligence” to review feasibility studies and plans to ensure demonstration projects would be successful and could be replicated in other China regions.

A FRAMEWORK FOR SUCCESS

Feasibility studies for the total relocation and development of three specific cities and historical sites were reviewed. Reviews were made of construction plans, economic analysis of the region, environmental studies, proposed education improvements, financial impact studies, and the design of a new Employment Training Center. One of the province’s projects included moving their schools to a more environmentally and economically-sound location. MTC, working with a local education specialist, reviewed the design and blueprints for the new schools and training center, offered suggestions for the feasibility plans, and conferred with local government and private sector leaders to ensure training at the new center and on-site would be demand driven. MTC also visited schools and conducted focus groups with principals, teachers and students for input on the consolidation and upgrade of several schools.



LASTING RESULTS



A final report was submitted, suggesting a plan for a smooth and progressive move and consolidation of schools in the new location. The government was advised to develop a Labor Market Analysis and a Gap Analysis to collect appropriate data for the creation of a transition plan. Questions were raised such as, “How can the new employment system not only meet the needs of local citizens, but also ensure those employed become regionally or globally competitive?” “What are the current skill and education levels of citizens moving to the new city?” “Will there be universal vocational certifications based on employer input?” “What vocations will require a larger workforce over the next 5 years?” “What technological skills will workers need?” It was recommended that an analysis be done of potential capacity building needs to ensure program sustainability.