

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF CONSULTANTS FOR THE NEPAL CAPE

1. The consultants will be recruited to assist the ADB Country Assistance Program Evaluation (CAPE) team in evaluating and analyzing the performance of ADB's Nepal country assistance program. Led by the team leader (Principal Evaluation Specialist), the consultants will assist in preparing the CAPE for Nepal by contributing relevant sections following the OED's guidelines for CAPE preparation, other evaluation guidelines referred to by OED, and recent examples of OED's country evaluations.

I. International Consultants

A. Senior Macroeconomist and Program Strategy Specialist (2 person-months)

2. The Consultant should be a highly experienced macro-economist. He/she should be familiar with the operations of ADB and/or similar organizations. He/she should have experience on working on strategic development issues and have knowledge of the macroeconomic situation in Nepal or at least in South Asia and/or conflict-driven countries. This experience should include addressing key issues relating to macroeconomic performance, public resource management and enabling environment for private sector development. He/she will undertake the following tasks:

(i) Review the CSP and other related documents to familiarize with ADB operations in Nepal over the last 10 years. He/she will also review the evaluation approach paper to understand the key issues to be addressed in the CAPE, and should be familiar with OED's 2006 guidelines for the preparation of CAPE reports.

(ii) Assist the team leader in undertaking the consultation process on the Nepal economic and program strategic issues as well as ADB's role in it. Consultations will include key stakeholders such as government ministries, academic institutions, key private sector representatives, other development partners and civil society organizations (including NGOs).

(iii) Prepare a semi-structured brief list of key strategic and policy related questionnaires that address the questions raised in the CAPE guidelines and the EAP. Prepare notes on the feedback from key stakeholders mentioned above.

(iv) Assess recent trends and performance of Nepal economy at the macroeconomic level including macroeconomic management policies, issues and indicators and key implications for the relevance, responsiveness and results of the country assistance program.

(v) Analyze ADB's economic and thematic work and assess whether these provided a comprehensive and accurate assessment of the situation in the country and was taken to a logical and practical conclusion that could be used for strategic planning.

(vi) Assess ADB's contributions to development results in Nepal including economic growth, social development (including, but not limited to MDGs), and improvements in governance. Identify value-addition provided by ADB.

(vii) Review the alignment of ADB country strategies with Government development strategies and assess the level of Government ownership of ADB country strategies. Assess whether country strategies were translated into effective operational (lending and non-lending)

programs, and if so, how and if not, identify reasons.

(viii) Based on a structured feedback from key Government and other development partners, provide evidence on the relevance of ADB's assistance program and strategy, including selectivity, sequencing and continuity.

(ix) Review the work of the other consultants and identify gaps in terms of information needs and discuss with task manager how to obtain the necessary information. Use evaluative evidence to collect and provide sound analytical basis for the key messages and recommendations of the CAPE. Prepare key findings, lessons and recommendations in draft form to be discussed with the stakeholders prior to report consolidation.

(x) Assess how recent program and investments loans have contributed to public resource management, and recommend ways to improve their relevance, response and results.

(xi) Review ADB's economic and thematic work and assess whether these provided a sufficient assessment of the situation in the country and was taken to a logical and practical conclusion that could be used for strategic planning.

(xii) Identify socio-economic factors that have influenced ADB's support for public and private sector reform processes and assess how ADB has handled and resolved different stakeholder interests.

(xiii) Provide evidence on the responsiveness and performance of ADB including the suitability of ADB policies, systems and lending instruments as well as capacity and core competencies in relation to expectations of the country strategy and program design and implementation.

(xiv) Consolidate the material from all relevant documents and formulate lessons and implications for future strategies, and options for how the future partnership between Nepal and ADB can be promoted, taking into account the feedback from the Government of Nepal, key stakeholders and ADB management.

(xv) Prepare a report on prescribed format and present findings in Nepal and at HQ in Manila.

(xvi) Assist in preparing the draft CAPE report and in responding to relevant questions and comments received during the draft CAPE report reviews.

(xvii) Undertake, within reason, other appropriate work/emerging areas as requested by the team leader.

B. Social Sector, Capacity Building and Governance Specialist (2 person-months)

3. The Consultant should be familiar with ADB's operations and development issues as well as sector and thematic evaluations. He/she should have in-depth knowledge of and work experience in the social sector, such as education. Working knowledge of evaluation approaches and methods is required, together with an excellent grasp of crosscutting themes

including poverty reduction, capacity building, governance, and partnering and alignment of development partners in the context of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

4. He/she will assist the Team Leader and the CAPE team in the following tasks.
 - (i) Prepare a detailed schedule and framework for the CAPE.
 - (ii) Prepare questionnaires specific for each sector based on the evaluation questionnaires prepared by the team leader.
 - (iii) Obtain structured feedback from key informants, such as the executing agencies, implementing agencies, beneficiaries NGOs and other development partners and provide evidence on the results from consultations and interviews.
 - (iv) Carry out rapid assessments of ADB's support (Loans, TAs and grants) for the education sector.
 - (v) Assess ADB's support for capacity building and governance in Nepal in the last five years and beyond if considered necessary.
 - (vi) Conduct an assessment of the approaches to partnering and harmonization between development partners and aligning with the country's systems in the context of ADB's program in Nepal. Among other examples could be ADB's support for the program based approach (PBA) or sector wide approach (SWAp) on education.
 - (vii) Review the selected programs of other development partners and assess the extent to which they complement and integrate with ADB's program, in particular policy reform initiatives.
 - (viii) With the assistance of the local consultants, assess the actual and potential role of ADB's support for the social sector in relation to poverty reduction efforts in Nepal.
 - (ix) Work closely with the local consultants in assessing ADB's results-based Nepal CSP against its Managing for Development Results (MfDR) approach, which was the first pilot in ADB.
 - (x) Prepare a report on the sector and topics covered in this assignment, including lessons and implications for future strategies, and options for how the future partnership between Nepal and ADB can be promoted.
 - (xi) Assist in preparing and presenting the draft CAPE report in collaboration with other members of the CAPE team.
 - (xii) Assist in responding to relevant questions and comments received during the draft CAPE report reviews.
 - (xiii) Undertake, within reason, other appropriate work/emerging areas as requested by the team leader.

II. Local Consultants

A. Senior Strategy and Program Advisor (1 person-month)

5. The Consultant should be familiar with the Government structure in Nepal including key issues relating to macroeconomic performance, public resource management and enabling environment for private sector development, as well as the current political changes and what they entail in shaping Nepal's future. He/she should also be familiar with ADB's operations and development issues.

6. He/she will undertake the following tasks and advise the CAPE team, particularly the Senior Macroeconomist and Program Strategy Specialist accordingly.

(i) Recommend key contacts within the Government and development partners for in-depth interviews and stakeholder consultations.

(ii) Assist/advise the CAPE team on recent trends and performance of key structural policies, policies intended to enhance the public and private sectors, and related reforms being implemented by the Government.

(iii) Assist and advise in reviewing the alignment of ADB country strategies with Government development strategies and assess level of Government ownership of ADB country strategies. Assess whether country strategies were translated into effective operational (lending and non-lending) programs, and if so, how and if not, identify reasons.

(iv) Provide a write-up on Nepal's development context and government priorities, such as: (a) the evolving political, economic, and social setting for development; and (b) the Government's development priorities and strategies.

(v) Assess recent trends and performance of Nepal economy at the macroeconomic level including macroeconomic management policies, issues and indicators and key implications for the relevance, responsiveness and results of the country assistance program. Together with the other consultants, assess key recent trends and performance of public institutions in facilitating service provision in Nepal, including the Government's fiscal position as well as trends and indicators for contributing to the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

(vi) Advise and assist the CAPE team in analyzing ADB's country assistance program context in Nepal as well as in evaluating and discussing its performance with stakeholders in Nepal.

(vii) Assist in reviewing the alignment of ADB country strategies with Government development strategies and assess the level of Government ownership of ADB country strategies through consultations and interviews with relevant officials.

(viii) Together with the other consultants, assess how recent program and investments loans have contributed to public resource management, and recommend ways to improve their relevance, response and results.

(ix) Assist and advise in the review of ADB's economic and thematic work and assess whether these provided a sufficient assessment of the situation in the country and was taken to a logical and practical conclusion that could be used for strategic planning.

(x) Together with the international consultant (Social Sector, Capacity Building and Governance Specialist) assess ADB's support for governance in Nepal.

B. Macroeconomic and Public Policy Specialist (3 person-months)

7. The Consultant is required to have substantial in-country knowledge and experience of Nepal's policies, programs, and their reforms. He/she should be familiar with ADB's operations and development issues and the Government structure in Nepal, particularly key issues relating to macroeconomic performance, public resource management, the political economy landscape and the current political changes. Working knowledge of evaluation approaches and methods is required. Below are his/her detailed tasks.

(i) Collect and collate secondary and primary data on economic, social, and sector developments for the country overall and selected regions. Data collection and collation includes MDG achievements, poverty levels, economic growth, and relevant sector development achievements and outputs.

(ii) Assist in identifying and arranging interviews/consultations with key contacts for strategic/policy and social sector issues.

(iii) Assist the CAPE team in reviewing recent trends and performance of Nepal economy over the past 5 years. Assist in the sourcing and reviewing relevant documents on the economic and social situation in the country, government strategies and programs, and other reports and documents that are relevant to ADB's operations in the country.

(iv) Analyze and interpret collated data and information, and prepare statistical tables, graphs and other forms of illustration as necessary for the CAPE report.

(v) Review available literature on linkages between economic growth and poverty reduction at the national and regional levels. Assist in assessing the actual and potential role of various sectors in poverty reduction efforts.

(vi) In the context of the macro-level assessments and top-down evaluation process assist in identifying key development constraints and challenges. Draw on continuing analysis by ADB's Economics and Research Department of economic development and binding constraints in the Nepal economy both for the public and private sectors.

(vii) Identify significant macro and sector reforms at the central Government and regional levels over the last 5 years and assist in identifying ADB's role and contribution in supporting reforms.

(viii) Assist the CAPE team in reviewing the selected programs of other development partners and assess the extent to which they complement and integrate with ADB's program, in particular policy reform initiatives.

(ix) Assist the OEM in developing and carrying out semi-structured interviews with relevant public agencies and development partners in Manila.

(x) Prepare a report on findings to an outline agreed with the team leader and in a prescribed format.

C. Infrastructure Evaluation Specialist (2.5 person months)

8. This position requires in-depth country experience and familiarity with Nepal's infrastructure sector, including rural and urban development as well as water and sanitation. Substantial knowledge of the issues, policies, programs, and sector reforms is another requirement. Working knowledge of evaluation approaches and methods is needed, together with an excellent grasp of crosscutting themes including poverty reduction. The detailed tasks are given below:

(i) Review the evolution and key development milestones of Nepal's infrastructure sector from 2003 to present and other relevant years as required, particularly in relation to the changing social, political, and economic context, and analyze key sector challenges and issues.

(ii) Assess Nepal's infrastructure sector, particularly the performance of ADB's sector strategies and programs, key issues/challenges, and opportunities and constraints.

(iii) Assess the strategies, priorities, and programs of the Government and analyze the positioning of ADB's infrastructure sector strategies and assistance with respect to the country contexts and other criteria, including their linkage and results in poverty reduction..

(iv) Conduct rapid assessments of selected ADB loans, technical assistance and grants in the sector as indicated in the evaluation approach paper.

(v) Assess the actual and potential role of ADB's support for the infrastructure sector in relation to poverty reduction efforts in Nepal.

(vi) Prepare questionnaires for the related topics based on the questions prepared by the team leader, and conduct interviews and focus group discussions in the assessment of the performance of ADB's sector strategies and assistance.

(vii) Identify key lessons, challenges, and opportunities in the transport, communication, urban and rural development sectors, and provide recommendations for consideration by ADB in its future country strategy for the infrastructure sector in Nepal.

(viii) Prepare a report on the assessment of the performance of ADB's sector strategies and assistance in the infrastructure sector in a format to be agreed upon with the team leader.

(ix) Perform other tasks that may be assigned by the team leader in the context of the assessment of the infrastructure sector for the CAPE.

D. Research Associate (3 person months)

9. The research assistant should have experience in applied research, an understanding of aid agency operations, good analytical and writing skills, excellent computer skills with sound knowledge of electronic databases and statistical analysis. He/she should also have good interpersonal skills and the ability to work independently and accurately. Below are his/her responsibilities.

(i) Provide analytical support and assist the team leader and international consultants in the preparation of the Country Assistance Program Evaluation (CAPE) for Nepal.

- (ii) Collect and assist in the review of relevant ADB documents produced by OED and other departments and offices in ADB, including current procedures, strategies, policies, guidelines, and economic and sector work related to Nepal.
- (iii) Assist the team leader and international consultants in identifying, gathering, and reviewing alternative sources of information relevant to the CAPE.
- (iv) Gather and process data relevant to the CAPE; prepare statistical tables, charts and other forms of illustration as may be needed.
- (v) Assist in analyzing the findings and synthesizing qualitative information relevant to the CAPE.
- (vi) Assist in the preparation of the sector assessments.
- (vii) Assist in other study related activities as may be required by the team leader.