

## ADB ASSISTANCE IN ICT

### A. ADB Strategic Direction

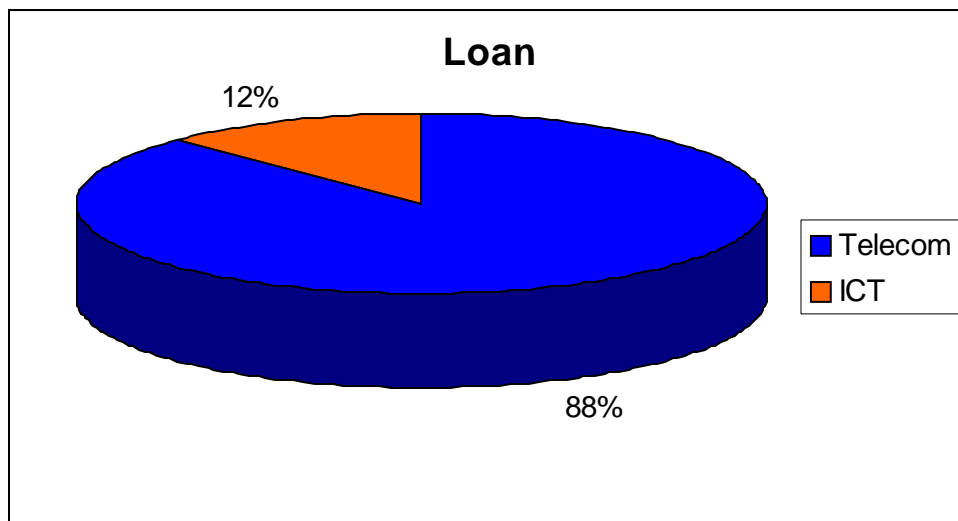
1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) recognizes the importance of information and communications technology (ICT) to fight poverty and foster development in Asia and the Pacific region in its policy paper prepared in 2001 entitled [\*Toward E-development in Asia and the Pacific: A Strategic Approach for ICT\*](#).

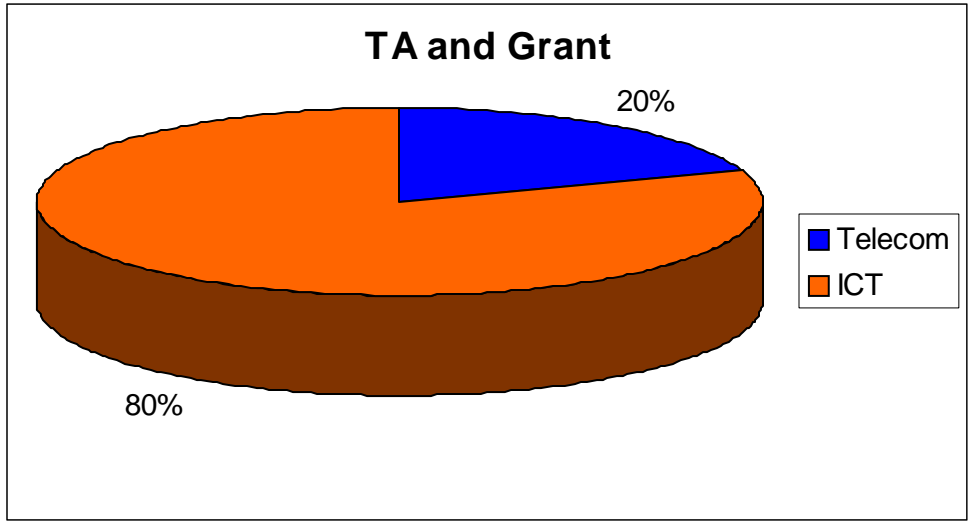
2. In the paper, three strategic thrusts were proposed: (i) to create an enabling environment by fostering the development of innovation sector policies, strengthening public institutions and promoting the development of ICT facilities and related infrastructure and networks; (ii) to build human resources; and (iii) to develop ICT applications and information contents.

3. A four-point action plan was proposed to (i) undertake e-readiness assessment; (ii) integrate ICT application in ADB's activities; (iii) promote strategic alliances and partnerships; and (iv) establish a center for learning, information, communication, and knowledge (CLICK) for Asia and the Pacific.

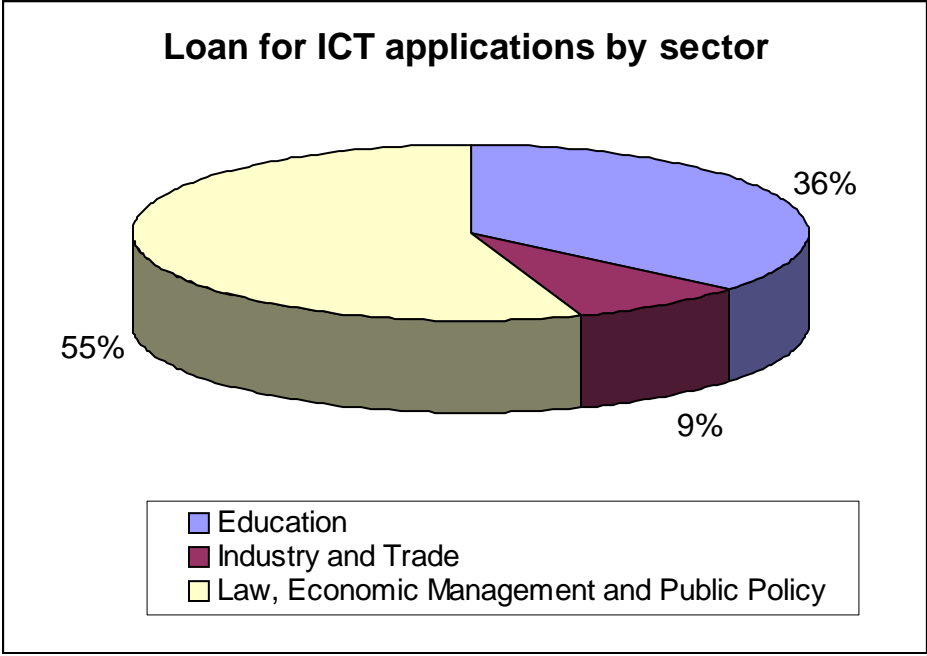
### B. ADB Assistance in ICT

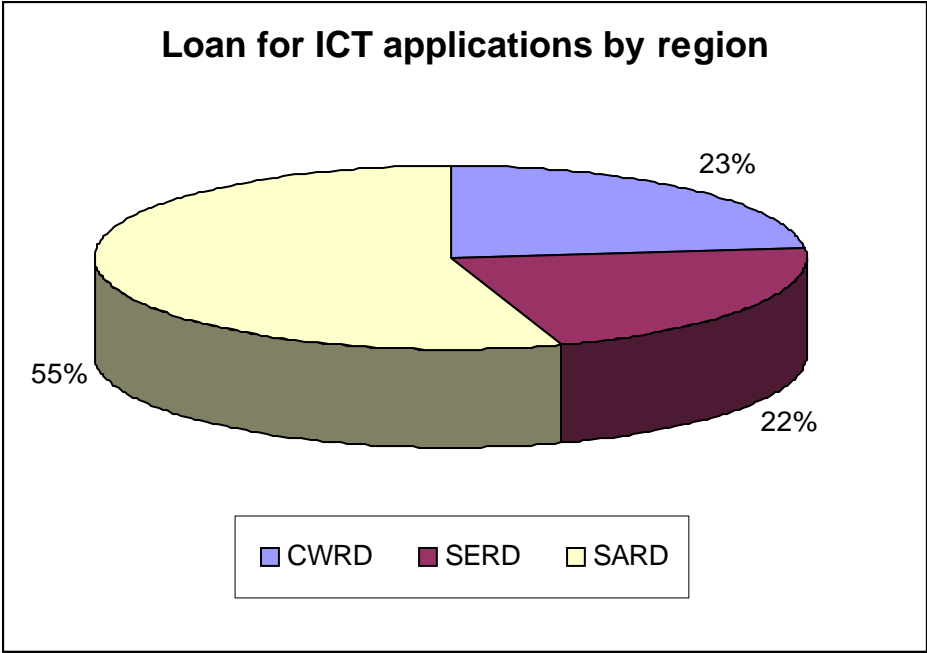
4. Since 1971, ADB assistance in the telecommunications and ICT sectors has reached \$1.80 billion—\$1.73 billion for loans, \$58.7 million for technical assistance (TA), and \$12.6 million for grants. It represents 1.5% of ADB total assistance. Telecommunications sector received 86% of the total assistance (\$1.54 billion—\$1.53 billion for loans and \$14.2 million for TAs) from 1970s to mid-1990s, while ICT applications received 14% since 2000 (\$264.8 million—\$207.7 million for loans, \$44.5 million for TAs, and \$12.6 million for grants).



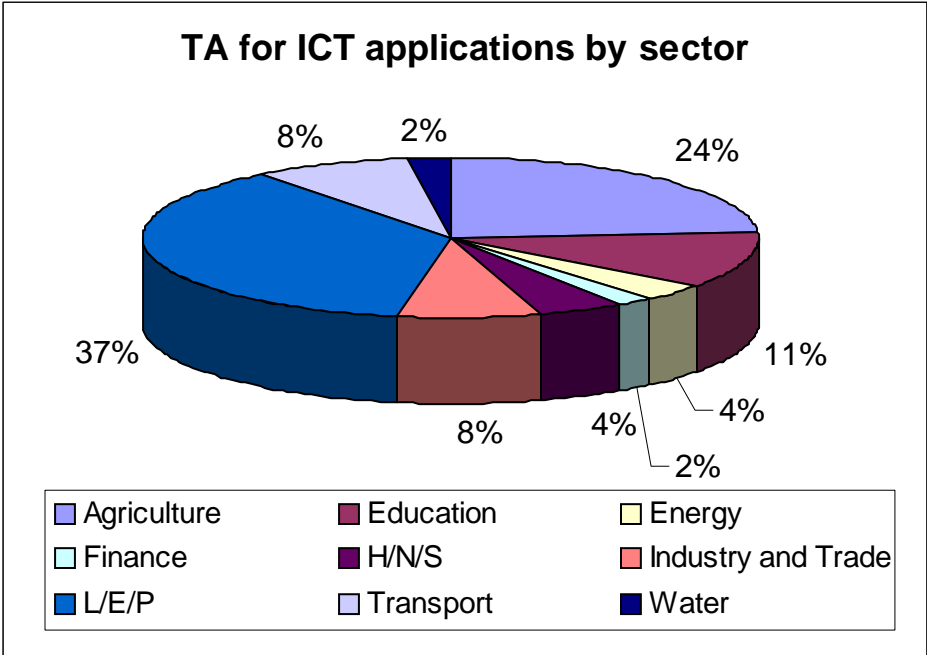


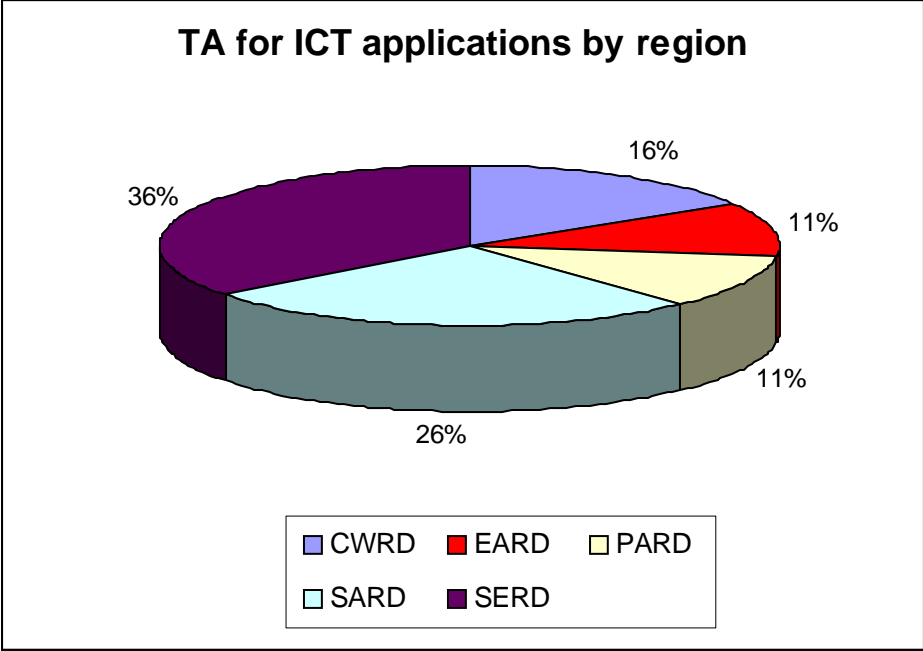
5. Among the loans for ICT applications totaling \$207.7 million, law, economic management and public policy sector (mostly e-government) obtained 55% (\$115 million); while education sector (distant learning, e-education) received 36% (\$75 million); and industry and trade sector (e-customs) got 9% (\$18 million). The South Asia Department (SARD) provided 55% of total assistance.



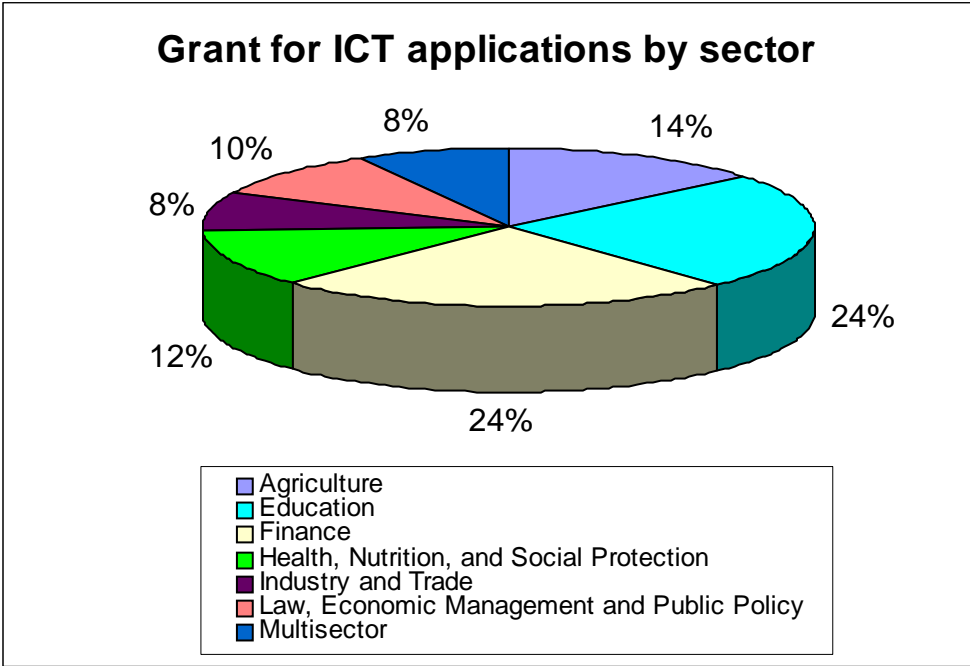


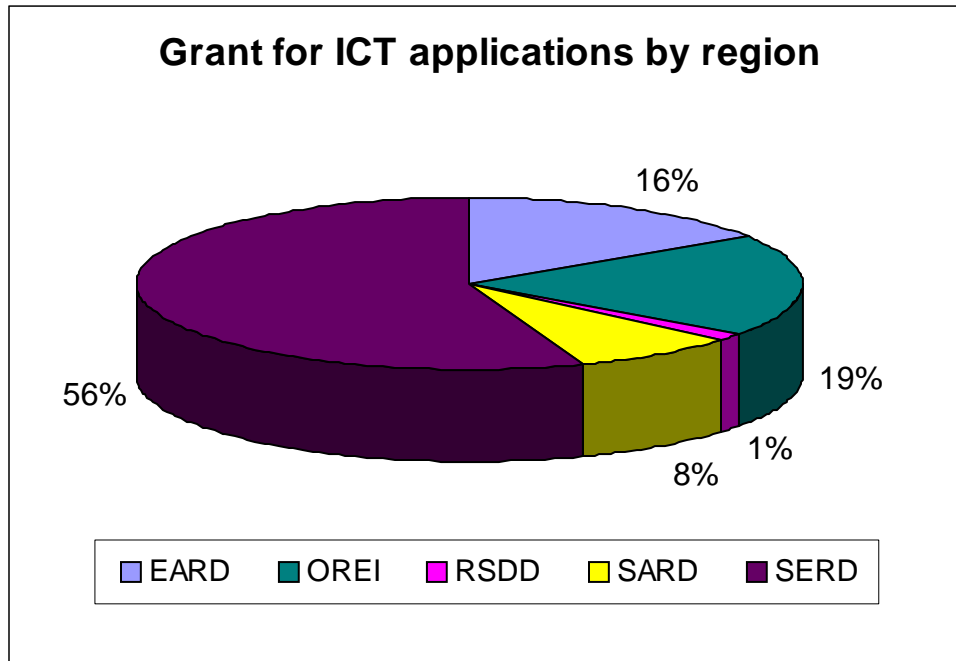
6. Among the TAs for ICT applications totaling \$44.6 million, law, economic management and public policy sector (mainly focused on e-government or community e-center) received 37% (\$16.3 million); while agriculture sector obtained 24% (\$10.6 million); and education sector got 11% (\$5.0 million). The Southeast Asia Department (SERD) and SARD provided 62% of total assistance.





7. Among the grants for ICT applications totaling \$12.6 million, education and finance sector each received 24% (\$3 million), while agriculture sector obtained 14% (\$1.8 million), and health sector got 12% (\$1.5 million). SERD provided 56% of total assistance.





### C. ADB Assistance in Regional Cooperation for ICT

8. **South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) ICT.** ADB has been assisting the regional cooperation among Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal through the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Program since 2001. An ICT working group was formed as one of the six priority sector-working groups in 2002. Two working group meetings were held in March 2004 and January 2006. The total amount of ADB assistance until mid 2006 is \$1.54 million. It includes (i) TA 5971-REG: Regional Roundtable Discussion on ICT, December 2000, \$90,000; (ii) TA 6232-REG: SASEC ICT Development Master Plan, February 2005, \$450,000; and (iii) JFICT 9068: Empowering the Rural Areas through Community e-Centers July 2005, \$1,000,000.

9. Key areas for regional cooperation identified include (i) enhancement of high-bandwidth connections; (ii) establishment of community information centers; (iii) information sharing and human resources development; (iv) strengthening and harmonization of ICT regulations; and (v) development of common software tools. Among others, SASEC ICT Development Master Plan was recently finalized, under which two priority projects such as Information Highway and Human Resource Development will be processed in 2006 and 2007. In addition, a community e-center project is in the preparation stage to be implemented late 2006.

10. **Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Telecommunication.** The telecommunications working group was established in 1992 and seven subregional telecommunications forums (STCF) have been held since 1995. ADB assistance has totaled to \$1.85 million. It includes (i) TA 6083-REG ICT and HIV/AIDS Preventive Education in the Cross-Border Areas of the GMS, December 2002 \$1,000,000; (ii) TA 6004-REG Telecommunications Sector Policy Formulation and Capacity Building, November 2001, \$700,000; and (iii) TA 5915-REG Establishment of Backbone Telecommunications Network Project Phase I, May 2000, \$150,000.

11. Flagship initiatives for telecommunications backbone and ICT include (i) expansion of the GMS telecommunications network by providing access to voice and data services, (ii) reduction of the "Digital Divide" incidence in the GMS, (iii) improvement of the backbone telecommunications infrastructure to attract private investments in national telecommunications networks, and (iv) facilitation of national networks interconnection in the six GMS countries. Implementation and Steering Group for Information Superhighway Network (ISN) was established to discuss how to develop ISN within the subregion. An MOU on the Planning and Construction of the GMS ISN was also signed in July 2005. In 2006, ADB provided assistance for Cambodia in implementing telecommunications sector policy reform and capacity building. In addition, mid-term review of the GMS strategic framework will be carried out in 2007.

#### **D. ADB External Activities**

12. ADB is an observer of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and a working group member of WSIS's Asia Regional Preparatory Meetings. ADB is also supporting the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)-led initiative on the Asia-Pacific Telecom Master plan, which was adapted at the Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Conference held in Tehran on 31 May 2005. ADB is also part of the Global Alliance on ICT and Development (GAID) established under the UN leadership to propel ICT for development purposes.

**ADB ICT Projects  
2000-2006**

**LOANS**

Count	Loan No.	Country	Dept	Project Name	Objective	Sector	Amount (US\$M)	Fund Type	Year Approved
1	2191	UZB	CWRD	ICT in Basic Education	To improve the quality, relevance and equitable access of basic education for all students, including students in poor and remote areas.	Education	30.00	ADF	2005
2	2132	SRI	SARD	Modernization of the Revenue Administration	To support the strengthening of public finances by improving public resource and expenditure management systems, promoting fiscal discipline, and supporting fiscal decentralization	Law, Economic Management, and Public Policy	15.00	OCR	2004
3	2130	SRI	SARD	Fiscal Management Reform Program	To support the strengthening of public finances by improving public resource and expenditure management systems, promoting fiscal discipline, and supporting fiscal decentralization.	Law, Economic Management, and Public Policy	45.00	OCR	2004
4	2114	REG	CWRD	Regional Customs Modernization and Infrastructure Development (Tajikistan)	To (i) improve the efficiency and transparency of customs services, and reinforce the ongoing customs legal reforms and simplification of custom procedures; and (ii) facilitate trade and promote regional customs cooperation through concerted customs reforms and modernization in the East and Central Asian region.	Industry and Trade	10.70	ADF	2004
5	2113	REG	CWRD	Regional Customs Modernization and Infrastructure Development (Kyrgyz)	To (i) improve the efficiency and transparency of customs services, and reinforce the ongoing customs legal reforms and simplification of custom procedures; and (ii) facilitate trade and promote regional customs cooperation through concerted customs reforms and modernization in the East and Central Asian region.	Industry and Trade	7.50	ADF	2004
6	1999	SRI	SARD	Distance Education Modernization	To boost enrolment, quality, and relevance of learning through distance education.	Education	45.00	ADF	2003
7	1992	VIE	SERD	Support Implementation of the Public Administration Reform Master Program Phase I	To support and facilitate the implementation of the Government's Public Administration Reform Master Program and to assist in building a professional, modern, effective and efficient administration system for the Borrower.	Law, Economic Management, and Public Policy	5.00	ADF	2003
8	1882	MLD	SARD	Information Technology Development	To improve the efficiency, transparency, and accountability of public sector management by networking government agencies and electronically providing information and services for the public.	Transport and Communications	9.50	ADF	2001

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND GRANT

Count	TA No.	Country	Dept	Project Name	Objective	Sector	Amount (US\$K)	Type	Year Approved
1	9087	PHI	SERD	Supporting Information Sharing and Exchange Among Civil Servants	To empower the third level executives in performing their functions through networking with their peers and greater sharing of information, data, and experiences (including lessons learned through various local-level initiatives using ICT).	Law, Economic Management, and Public Policy	500	Grant (JFICT)	2006
2	6278	REG/ Pacific	RSDD	Innovative ICT in Education, and its Potential for Reducing Poverty in the Asia and Pacific Region	To improve awareness and holistic understanding among the <a href="#">developing member countries (DMCs)</a> in Asia and Pacific about innovative ICT applications in education, and its potential for reducing poverty.	Education	800	RETA	2005
3	6275	REG/ East & Central Asia	EARD	ICT in Education	To increase effective investments in ICT in basic education for improved education opportunities and closer alignment with labor market needs in the participating countries (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan).	Education	600	RETA	2005
4	6232	REG/ SASEC	SARD	SASEC ICT Development Master Plan	To foster regional cooperation in ICT among <a href="#">South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC)</a> countries.	Transport and Communications	450	RETA	2005
5	4685	KGZ	CWRD	Preparing the Reform and Modernization of Revenue Administration Project	To support the Government's goal of increasing revenue collection by modernizing revenue administration, the project preparatory technical assistance will design a strategy and action plan focusing on investment in ICT, reorganization, and training.	Law, Economic Management, and Public Policy	500	TA	2005
6	4622	TAJ	CWRD	Tax Administration Modernization and Governance Enhancement	To contribute to poverty reduction and private sector development through (i) improved efficiency and governance of the Tax Administration, and (ii) enhanced revenue collection for poverty reduction and sustainable economic growth.	Law, Economic Management, and Public Policy	500	TA	2005
7	9082	INO	SERD	Support for the Local Government Performance Measurement System	To help strengthen the performance management framework for local governments by providing tools and systems for assessing local government capacity and performance.	Law, Economic Management, and Public Policy	730	Grant (JFICT)	2005
8	9070	PHI	SERD	Developing the Philippine Business Registry	To reduce the cost of doing business and improve the business climate by unifying business registrations currently required by different authorities and facilitating business development through information provision.	Industry and Trade	700	Grant (JFICT)	2005
9	9068	REG	SARD	Empowering the Rural Area Through Community E-Centers under <a href="#">SASEC</a>	To reduce poverty and to improve the quality of life of the rural communities in <a href="#">SASEC</a> countries by providing them ICT accessibility and demand-driven ICT applications through community e-centers.	Multi-sector	1,000	Grant (JFICT)	2005

Count	TA No.	Country	Dept	Project Name	Objective	Sector	Amount (US\$K)	Type	Year Approved
10	9061	CAM	SERD	Improving Primary School Access in Disadvantaged Communities	To reduce poverty in the poorest districts and communes in Cambodia by ensuring access to primary education for girls from the poorest families, and children living in remote areas.	Education	1,870	Grant (JFICT)	2005
11	6178	REG/ Pacific	PARD	E-Rural Demonstration in the Pacific	To improve the enabling environment for economic growth and poverty reduction in rural areas in the Pacific by improving access to basic communication.	Transport and Communications	230	RETA	2004
12	4495	UZB	CWRD	ICT in Basic Education	To assist the Government in preparing an investment project for integrating ICT in basic education based on a well formulated ICT development strategy in the subsector.	Education	600	TA	2004
13	4451	TAJ	CWRD	Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening for Customs Modernization and Infrastructure Development	To ensure that the border posts and processing points have adequate border infrastructure, inspection and servicing systems, and modern ICT to effectively process shipments, and have the means to detect and combat smuggling.	Industry and Trade	500	TA	2004
14	4450	KGZ	CWRD	Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening for Customs Modernization and Infrastructure Development	To ensure that the border posts and processing points have adequate border infrastructure, inspection and servicing systems and modern ICT to effectively process shipments and have the means to detect and combat smuggling.	Industry and Trade	500	TA	2004
15	9053	MON	EARD	ICT for Improving Rural Health Services	To improve access to and quality of health services for the vulnerable groups of the rural communities, especially poor mothers and children.	Health, Nutrition, and Social Protection	1,000	Grant (JFICT)	2004
16	9051	REG	SERD	Developing a Database on Cross-Border Trade and Investment in <a href="#">Brunei Darussalam</a> , <a href="#">Indonesia</a> , <a href="#">Malaysia</a> , <a href="#">Philippines-East</a> <a href="#">Association of Southeast Asian Nations Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA)</a>	To support the participating countries in revitalizing and sustaining economic cooperation in BIMP-EAGA by establishing institutional and technical infrastructure necessary for quantitative planning and monitoring.	Industry and Trade	300	Grant (JFICT)	2004
17	9050	LAO	SERD	Banking Automation to Support Outreach, Efficiency and Governance	To complement Loan 1931-LAO that will finance the ICT Project for the Lao Development Bank, and the system upgrade for Banque pour le Commerce Extérieur.	Finance	650	Grant (JFICT)	2004
18	9047	REG	SERD	Improving Poor Farmers' Livelihoods through Rice Information Technology	To improve food security and livelihood of poor farmers in the GMS through increased access and application of up-to-date and comprehensive web-based information, and using ICT to share information and experience at the regional level.	Agriculture and Natural Resources	1,000	Grant (JFICT)	2004

Count	TA No.	Country	Dept	Project Name	Objective	Sector	Amount (US\$K)	Type	Year Approved
19	9044	MON	EARD	ICT for Innovating Rural Education	To break down isolation from information and support for educators in disadvantaged rural areas, and enhance education quality and relevance by empowering teacher innovation towards a pupil-centered, active learning environment.	Education	1,000	Grant (JFICT)	2004
20	9041	REG	OREI	Asian Bonds Online Web Site	To improve information flows for Asian bond markets through the establishment of an Asian Bonds Online Web Site.	Finance	2,400	Grant (JFICT)	2004
21	9036	REG (Cambodia & Viet Nam)	SERD	Improving Poor Farmers' Livelihoods through Postharvest Technology	To address food security issues and to improve the livelihoods of poor farmers through capacity building in rice postharvest technology.	Agriculture and Natural Resources	750	Grant (JFICT)	2003
22	6155	REG/ Central Asia	CWRD	Capacity Building in Environmental Information Management Systems in Central Asia	To help achieve sustainable development by mainstreaming environment into national development planning processes, and strengthening regional cooperation on transboundary environmental management.	Agriculture and Natural Resources	800	RETA	2003
23	6124	REG/ Central Asia	CWRD	ADB-OSI Central Asia Education Cooperation Network	To enhance the education reform processes through improved cooperation between the Central Asia Republics by establishing a network of education stakeholders, interacting primarily through an Internet interface.	Education	200	RETA	2003
24	6107	REG/ Pacific	PARD	Preparing a Pro-poor Subregional E-Government Project for Providing Basic Service Delivery to Remote Communities in the Pacific	To assist the Pacific DMCs in assessing their e-government demand and implementation capacity, mainly with reference to basic social services delivery to remote and disadvantaged communities.	Law, Economic Management, and Public Policy	290	RETA	2003
25	4305	SAM	PARD	Supporting the Samoa SchoolNet and Community Access Pilot Project	To improve quality and efficiency of education, enable access to global information through improved access to ICT, and assist the Government in increasing social inclusion and reducing poverty in the rural areas.	Education	600	TA	2003
26	4194	VIE	SERD	Agriculture Science and Technology	To (i) intensify and diversify agricultural production, (ii) increase farm incomes, and (iii) reduce rural poverty.	Agriculture and Natural Resources	900	TA	2003
27	4128	IND	SARD	Budget Procedure Reform, Computerization, and Expenditure Management (ASSAM)	To strengthen Government of Assam's (GoA) capacity to implement Medium Term Fiscal Reform Program by supporting (i) establishment of a legislative framework; (ii) improvement of state's planning and budgeting process; (iii) strengthening of the GoA's expenditure management and control; (iv) improvement of public sector service delivery; and (v) exploration and piloting of e-governance options for improving staff relations, and procurement and disbursement processes.	Law, Economic Management, and Public Policy	1,000	TA	2003

Count	TA No.	Country	Dept	Project Name	Objective	Sector	Amount (US\$K)	Type	Year Approved
28	4110	SRI	SARD	Community Information Services for the Poor	To create opportunities for the poor to participate in economic growth by providing vital information.	Law, Economic Management, and Public Policy	800	TA	2003
29	4100	FIJ	PARD	Implementation of the ICT Strategy	To improve the enabling environment for economic growth and poverty reduction by enhancing ICT development in the Fiji Islands.	Transport and Communications	150	TA	2003
30	4080	VIE	SERD	Support to the Office of the Government in the Implementation of Administrative Modernization including Computerization and E-Government Initiatives	To support and facilitate the implementation of the Government's Public Administration Reform Master Program and to assist in building a professional, modern, effective and efficient administration system for the Borrower.	Law, Economic Management, and Public Policy	1,270	TA	2003
31	6083	REG/ GMS	SERD	ICT and HIV/AIDS Preventive Education in the Cross-Border Areas of the <a href="#">Greater Mekong Subregion</a>	To: (i) develop ICT learning materials for HIV/AIDS preventive education in local languages; (ii) build the capacities of teachers, health workers, multimedia providers, and other stakeholders for HIV/AIDS preventive education; (iii) expand the use of ICT interventions in HIV/AIDS preventive education; and (iv) deliver ICT-based interventions to isolated, marginalized, and vulnerable populations.	Health, Nutrition, and Social Protection	1,000	RETA	2002
32	6060	REG/ BIMP-EAGA	SERD	Facilitating Business Information Exchange for Small and Medium Enterprises in <a href="#">BIMP-EAGA</a> Region	To support the development of a strong and dynamic private sector in <a href="#">BIMP-EAGA</a> by helping build the institutional strength and technical capacity of the East ASEAN Business Council.	Industry	500	RETA	2002
33	6038	REG	RSDD	Networking with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)	To improve knowledge management in ADB by accessing and utilizing AIT's knowledge, expertise, and experience, in the areas of (i) environment and natural resources; (ii) technology development and use of ICT; (iii) agriculture and rural development; (iv) human resource development and capacity building; and (v) regional cooperation.	Law, Economic Management, and Public Policy	150	RETA	2002
34	4071	UZB	CWRD	Developing a Management Information System (MIS) for Uzbek Telecom (UT)	To provide UT with a modern MIS based on an International Accounting Standards accounting system.	Transport & Communications	400	TA	2002
35	3973	SRI	SARD	School Computerization Project	To prepare an investment project to support the Government's strategy to improve the quality and efficiency of school education to meet new labor market requirements.	Education	500	TA	2002

Count	TA No.	Country	Dept	Project Name	Objective	Sector	Amount (US\$K)	Type	Year Approved
36	3958	PRC	EARD	Improving Basic Education in Underdeveloped Areas through ICT	To advance policy dialogue on targeted and viable applications of distance education and ICT in the Western Region to improve quality and equity in basic education.	Education	500	TA	2002
37	3951	TAJ	CWRD	Customs Modernization and Infrastructure Development	To support the reforms envisaged under the first phase of the program and to prepare the investment component for the second phase of the program.	Industry	500	TA	2002
38	3950	KGZ	CWRD	Customs Modernization and Infrastructure Development	To ensure that the border posts and processing points have adequate border infrastructure, inspection and servicing systems and modern ICT to effectively process shipments and to detect and combat smuggling.	Industry	500	TA	2002
39	3937	TKM	CWRD	Improving the Statistical Methodology of the National Institute of State Statistics and Information	To (i) conduct a Turkmen Living Standards Survey in 2003 in order to provide an up-to-date and comprehensive assessment of the standards of living and (ii) to advise TurkmenMilliHasabat on the use of the Family Budget Survey for monitoring standards of living, based on an in-depth assessment of the sampling methodology and questionnaire design, data processing, and analysis.	Law, Economic Management, and Public Policy	265	TA	2002
40	3886	VIE	SERD	Implementation of the Public Administration Reform Program	To help formulate and develop the Program Loan to support the implementation of public administration reform with a focus on e-government initiatives to modernize service delivery, work systems and work processes; strengthening training institutions; and developing and conducting training programs to enhance skills of Government officials.	Law, Economic Management, and Public Policy	427	TA	2002
41	9029	REG	RSDD	Development of a Business Plan for a Center for Learning, Information, Communication, and Knowledge for Asia and the Pacific (CLICK)	To develop a sound and viable business plan, which is a prerequisite to the establishment of the CLICK, and to define its mission, role, goals and objectives of the CLICK.	Education	180	Grant (JFICT)	2002
42	9020	VIE	SERD	E-Health Insurance Membership Cards	To demonstrate the feasibility of introducing the E-HI cards that can facilitate the expansion of health insurance coverage in rural and poor communities.	Health, Nutrition and Social Protection	500	Grant (JFICT)	2002
43	5990	REG/ Pacific	PARD	ICT Assessment in the Pacific	To help the Pacific DMC governments assess their ICT readiness, prepare the framework for future development in the sector, and identify bankable projects for such.	Transport and Communications	300,	TA	2001
44	5981	REG	OREI	Asia Recovery Information Center, Phase II	To continue and consolidate the ARIC activities in Phase I and implement new activities, taking into account the faster than expected recovery in Asia.	Law, Economic Management, and Public Policy	930	RETA	2001

Count	TA No.	Country	Dept	Project Name	Objective	Sector	Amount (US\$K)	Type	Year Approved
45	3743	TIM	PARD	Microfinance Information Technology Systems Development	To assist the Economic Affairs Department of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor in strengthening microfinance institutions' operations and credit unions to enhance their viability and enable them to provide responsive microfinance services.	Finance	150	TA	2001
46	5971	REG/ SASEC	SARD	Regional Round Table on ICT	To share India's successful experience with ICT development.	Transport and Communications	90	RETA	2000
47	5955	REG	EDOD	ADB-ADB Workshop on ICT Strategy for Developing Asia	To raise the <a href="#">DMCs</a> ' awareness about the wide ranging social and economic implications of the ICT revolution; and provide a forum for DMC policymakers to share their knowledge and experience in developing ICT strategies.	Transport and Communications	50	RETA	2000
48	5954	REG	EDAN	Seventh Joint ADB-OECD Forum on Asian Perspectives - Technology and Poverty Reduction in Asia	To (i) discuss the role of technological progress including ICT in poverty reduction and socioeconomic development; (ii) make policy recommendations to assist <a href="#">DMCs</a> in developing the policy strategy for technological advancement for poverty reduction; and (iii) examine the role of the OECD and the ADB in this context.	Law, Economic Management, and Public Policy	145	RETA	2000
49	5931	REG	AWEH	Support for ICT and Education	To address the growing "digital divide" by making regional DMCs more aware of the potential for ICT in education to prepare students for work in the new economy through the international roundtable and workshop.	Education	100	RETA	2000
50	3611	RMI	PARD	Reviewing the Health Management Information System (HMIS)	To (i) review the existing HMIS, (ii) develop an action plan for health information in RMI, and (iii) identify the kind and level of assistance required over the medium term to ensure that the HMIS generates reliable, comprehensive, and usable information.	Health, Nutrition, and Social Protection	100	TA	2000
51	3597	MLD	SARD	Information Technology Development	To prepare a project to improve efficiency, transparency, and accountability of public sector management including provision of Government services through ICT.	Law, Economic Management, and Public Policy	150	TA	2000
52	3581	NEP	SARD	ICT for Improved Financial Services Provision	To increase the competitiveness of Nepal's financial sector by reducing transaction and information costs through the use of ICT.	Finance	565	TA	2000
53	2862	LAO	SERD	Management Information System (Supplementary)	To build up the institutional framework, as well as training the staff of the Communications Department of the Ministry of Communications, Transport, Post and Construction in the application of management information systems.	Transport and Communications	280	TA	2000