

I. BASIC FACTS AND KEY FEATURES

1. The Japan Special Fund (JSF), established in 1988, has grown into a significant fund at the Asian Development Bank (ADB). It finances a wide range of technical assistance (TA) activities in support of ADB's priority aid projects. Such activities support developing member countries (DMCs) of ADB (Appendix 1) in preparing a program of potential development projects that are technically feasible and economically viable, for subsequent financing. Some projects involve institutional strengthening, analytical studies of various types, or the formulation of national development plans and poverty reduction programs. Others build capacity to improve governance or accelerate human resource development. Regional TA grants are provided to a group of DMCs to support analytical

studies or development activities that benefit more than just one country. ADB's TA activities result in a range of knowledge products and services.

2. ADB administers the JSF through the Office of Cofinancing Operations (OCO). OCO processes TA proposals in batches, normally six times a year. It processes urgent proposals separately. The proposals undergo two stages of approval for fund commitment. After careful screening by OCO, they are sent to the Government of Japan for initial approval. The proposals that are approved after thorough review by the JSF authorities in Japan are further reviewed and cleared by ADB's interdepartmental staff review committee. Those that receive final approval are announced by OCO.

PROFILE

Background

- Established in March 1988
- Funded by the Government of Japan (GOJ)
- Administered by the Office of Cofinancing Operations of ADB

Uses of JSF Grants

- Preparing projects
 - Providing advice
 - Implementing projects
 - Supporting regional activities
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TWO-STEP APPROVAL PROCESS

Informal

- Preliminary review
- Request for clarification
- GOJ final review
- Further request for clarification
- Receipt of informal approval

Formal

- Issuance of registration number
 - Receipt of formal approval
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