

**MONTHLY REPORT ON SMALL-SCALE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS
NOT EXCEEDING \$150,000 PER PROJECT
September 2002**

1. Economic Studies for the Rural Roads Sector Development, India

Executing Agency : Ministry of Rural Development (MORD)
TA Type : Project Preparatory
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : Not listed^a
Date Approved : 03 September 2002

Project Description :

The TA represents part of a sequence of TAs to assist the Government of India and the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh with the preparation of projects suitable for ADB financing. The overall objectives are to (i) reduce rural poverty and increase access for rural populations to markets and social services by providing all-weather connectivity to villages that do not have such connectivity; and (ii) preserve the road assets being created by setting in place proper institutional and financing mechanisms to ensure maintenance of the road assets being created under this project. The outputs of the TA are to help develop a project selection process that ensures that the roads selected are both economically viable as well as have the maximum potential of having poverty reduction impact. The project selection developed criteria will therefore be a two-stage process. In the first stage, an economic analysis of identified projects will be carried out in accordance with the ADB's *Guidelines for the Economic Analysis of Projects*. Projects that are found to be economically viable will then be analyzed on social criteria so that poverty reduction impact is maximized for projects to be selected for inclusion in the investment loan. The consultants will also prepare the economic analysis, accessibility profile and transport profile on 100 km of roads in the first phase and a further 400 km in the second phase of the TA for inclusion in a possible investment loan.

Status of Consulting Services: Recruitment of consultants is underway.

2. Engineering Studies for the Rural Roads Sector Development, India

Executing Agency : Ministry of Rural Development (MORD)
TA Type : Project Preparatory
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : Not listed^a
Date Approved : 03 September 2002

Project Description :

The TA represents part of a sequence of TAs to assist the Government of India and the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh with the preparation of projects suitable for ADB financing. The overall objectives are to (i) reduce rural poverty and increase access for rural populations to markets and social services by providing all-weather connectivity to villages that do not have such connectivity; and (ii) preserve the road assets being created by setting in place proper institutional and financing mechanisms to ensure maintenance of the road assets being created under this project. The outputs of this TA are to review and suggest improvements to the engineering aspects of the current practice in the Prime Minister's Rural Road Project being implemented by the MORD so that rural road projects to be included for the investment loan meet ADB's standards. To this end, the consultants will also review engineering studies on 100 km of

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roads in the first phase and a further 900 km in the second phase of the TA for inclusion in a possible investment loan.

Status of Consulting Services: Recruitment of consultants is underway.

3. Environmental Analysis for the Rural Roads Sector Development, India

Executing Agency : Ministry of Rural Development (MORD)
TA Type : Project Preparatory
TA Amount (\$'000) : 100.0
ADBBO Listing : Not listed^a
Date Approved : 03 September 2002

Project Description :

The TA represents part of a sequence of TAs to assist the Government of India and the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh with the preparation of projects suitable for ADB financing. The overall objectives are to (i) reduce rural poverty and increase access for rural populations to markets and social services by providing all-weather connectivity to villages that do not have such connectivity; and (ii) preserve the road assets being created by setting in place proper institutional and financing mechanisms to ensure maintenance of the road assets being created under this project. The outputs of this TA are to (i) carry out an Initial Environmental Examination; and (ii) carry out the preparatory work necessary to comply with ADB requirements on safeguard policies with respect to environmental issues. The work will be carried out in two phases and in two states, i.e., Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh for 100 km of roads in the first phase and a further 400 km in the second phase in each of the two states for inclusion in a possible investment loan.

Status of Consulting Services: Recruitment of consultants is underway.

4. Institutional and Policy Development Studies for the Rural Roads Sector Development, India

Executing Agency : Ministry of Rural Development (MORD)
TA Type : Project Preparatory
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : Not listed^a
Date Approved : 03 September 2002

Project Description :

The TA represents part of a sequence of TAs to assist the Government of India and the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh with the preparation of projects suitable for ADB financing. The overall objectives are to (i) reduce rural poverty and increase access for rural populations to markets and social services by providing all-weather connectivity to villages that do not have such connectivity; and (ii) preserve the road assets being created by setting in place proper institutional and financing mechanisms to ensure maintenance of the road assets being created under this project. The outputs of this TA are (i) formulation of a policy framework that can govern project identification, selection and implementation such that the local community input in the program is institutionalized and project selection criteria maximizes the poverty reduction potential impact of this program taking into account engineering, social and environmental considerations; (ii) formulation of guidelines on how to ensure the sustainability of the assets created under this program; and (iii) recommendations on the needed institutional strengthening necessary at both the central and the implementation level at state and district levels to ensure cost-effective and timely delivery of the project. The output of this TA will be applicable for all states for any subsequent investment loan that may be approved although the focus will be in two states,

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i.e., Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. The consultant for this TA will also be responsible for coordinating and integrating the outputs of all the other TA consultants involved for the duration of the TA.

Status of Consulting Services: Recruitment of consultants is underway.

5. Social Analysis for the Rural Roads Sector Development, India

Executing Agency	:	Ministry of Rural Development (MORD)
TA Type	:	Project Preparatory
TA Amount (\$'000)	:	150.0
ADBBO Listing	:	Not listed ^a
Date Approved	:	03 September 2002

Project Description :

The TA represents part of a sequence of TAs to assist the Government of India and the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh with the preparation of projects suitable for ADB financing. The overall objectives are to (i) reduce rural poverty and increase access for rural populations to markets and social services by providing all-weather connectivity to villages that do not have such connectivity; and (ii) preserve the road assets being created by setting in place proper institutional and financing mechanisms to ensure maintenance of the road assets being created under this project. The outputs of this TA are to (i) carry out the Initial Social Analysis; and (ii) carry out the preparatory work necessary to comply with ADB requirements on safeguard policies with respect to resettlement and ethnic minority development policies. The social analysis will be done in accordance with ADB's *Handbook for Poverty and Social Analysis* while the resettlement and ethnic minority development work will be done in accordance with the ADB's *Handbook on Resettlement: A Guide to Good Practice* and ADB's *Policy on Indigenous Peoples*. This will be carried out for 100 km of roads in the first phase and a further 400 km each in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in the second phase of the TA for inclusion in a possible investment loan.

Status of Consulting Services: Recruitment of consultants is underway.

6. Strengthening Revenue and Expenditure Management Systems in the Fiscal Policy Office, Thailand

Executing Agency	:	Fiscal Policy Office (FPO)
TA Type	:	Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000)	:	150.0
ADBBO Listing	:	Not listed ^a
Date Approved	:	10 September 2002

Project Description :

The TA will strengthen the capacity of FPO to gather, analyze and interpret information for the purpose of improved fiscal management in Thailand. Initially, TA activities will focus on two areas that have been earmarked by FPO as priorities. These are (i) the analysis of the dimensions of fiscal risks or vulnerabilities posed by contingent public sector liabilities; and (ii) the development of a projection model for local government revenue. It is envisaged that a second phase of TA assistance will be provided in 2003 to strengthen other aspects of fiscal information and associated analytical capacities.

Status of Consulting Services: No action has been taken to recruit consultants.

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7. Development of Small and Medium Enterprise Alternative Financing Mechanism, People's Republic of China

Executing Agency : Small and Medium Enterprise Department, State Economic and Trade Committee (SETC)
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 23 July 2002
Date Approved : 24 September 2002

Project Description :

The major objective of this regional technical assistance is to promote the awareness and benefits of regional cooperation by facilitating discussions on regional public goods. It is proposed to organize a conference on November 7 and 8, 2002 which would provide greater publicity and operational emphasis to the role of regional public goods and ultimately their key role in economic development. The specific objectives of the conference are to: (i) support information-sharing between ADB and IDB on successful regional cooperation approaches and experiences in the two regions. The Conference would highlight key issues related to design and delivery of regional public goods provided by regional development institutions and/or by regional cooperative efforts; (ii) provide a venue for the constructive exchange between experts and practitioners from various development institutions; and (iii) help establish a network of experts and practitioners on regional public goods to strengthen and broaden the knowledge base on the design and provision of regional public goods.

Status of Consulting Services: Recruitment of consultants is underway.

8. Improving the Climate for Investment and Productivity in the Philippines: An Approach to Long-Term Poverty Reduction, Philippines

Executing Agency : Department of Trade and Industry
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 120.0
ADBBO Listing : 17 September 2002
Date Approved : 25 September 2002

Project Description :

The goal of the TA is to help improve the environment for investment and productivity in the Philippines, thereby fostering private sector development that contributes to sustained poverty reduction. To achieve this goal, the TA will support the conduct of a survey and analysis of business establishments to: (i) probe the constraints to private investment and productivity growth; (ii) examine how the Philippines compares with other countries in terms of competitiveness and productivity ; and (iii) identify effective ways to deal with impediments to investment and productivity growth. The results of the survey and analysis will provide policymakers with suitable guidance on how to enhance the climate for investment and productivity, thereby making the Philippines catch up with the leaders in international competitiveness.

Status of Consulting Services: Direct selection of consultants has been approved.

9. Trade Policy Review, Mongolia

Executing Agency : Ministry of Industry and Trade
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 26 June 2002
Date Approved : 30 September 2002

Project Description :

The goal of the TA is to formulate a sound trade policy and legal framework for Mongolia. The TA will support an assessment of the institutional, policy and legal constraints impeding trade creation, facilitation and diversification. The output of the TA will be a series of policy and legal assessments, recommendations to strengthen the institutional capacity for trade policy formulation and trade facilitation and an analysis of impact of large trading partners joining the World Trade Organization.

Status of Consulting Services: No action has been taken to recruit consultants.

10. Fourth Asia Roundtable on Corporate Governance, Regional

Executing Agency : Asian Development Bank
TA Type : Conference
TA Amount (\$'000) : 50.0
ADBBO Listing : Not listed
Date Approved : 10 September 2002

Project Description :

Being a Core Member of the Corporate Governance Roundtable series along with OECD and the World Bank, ADB is once again invited to co-sponsor the Fourth Asian Roundtable on Corporate Governance, to be held in Mumbai, India on 4-6 November 2002. Broadly, the purpose of the Roundtable meeting is to explore ways to further promote good corporate governance in Asia through a multilateral exchange of experience and ideas among government officials, corporate practitioners, private investors and governance experts. The first three roundtables tackled the issues of the state of corporate governance in the region, the role of disclosure in strengthening corporate governance, and the role of boards and stakeholders in corporate governance. The Fourth Roundtable will focus on shareholder rights and the equitable treatment of shareholders. The discussions will cover critical areas of corporate governance that will have a significant positive impact on the proper and responsible management of companies. These areas include (i) enhancing shareholder value in Asia; (ii) promoting active shareholder, including institutional investor participation during the general meeting of shareholders; (iii) role of state and international organizations as shareholders; (iv) prevention of insider abuse; (v) enforcing and strengthening shareholder, including minority shareholder, rights and empowering shareholders; (vi) handling related party contracts; (vii) promoting board independence; (viii) adequacy of accounting disclosures; and (ix) issues relating to director liability.

Status of Consulting Services: No consultant is required.

11. Networking with the Asian Institute of Management, Regional

Executing Agency : Asian Development Bank
TA Type : Others
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : Not listed^a
Date Approved : 24 September 2002
Project Description :

The networking initiative aims to improve knowledge management in ADB by accessing and utilizing knowledge, expertise, and experience of the AIM. It will supplement ADB's internal knowledge creation efforts, augment its capacity for training and capacity building activities for its

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DMCs, and provide a more efficient and cost-effective means of obtaining the required skills and knowledge.

Status of Consulting Services: No consultant is required.

12. Exploring Afghanistan's Subregional Economic Cooperation Potential, Regional

Executing Agency : Asian Development Bank
TA Type : Study
TA Amount (\$'000) : 75.0
ADBBO Listing : Not listed^a
Date Approved : 30 September 2002

Project Description :

The main objective of this regional technical assistance is to provide an analytical and empirical basis through a study for identifying regional economic cooperation potential of Afghanistan. The three main aspects of the study will be (i) trade linkages through transport mode; (ii) identification of other areas of regional cooperation, and (iii) evaluation of institutional capability for fostering regional cooperation initiatives. Given Afghanistan's land locked nature, and its main trade linkages, ways to facilitate these linkages especially through road transport would be explored. In trade, the focus of the study will be on Afghanistan's main trade routes connecting to seaports. The findings and output of the TA study could be followed up by further regional cooperation activities such as discussion and identification of concrete undertakings in areas and sectors with regional cooperation potential with neighboring countries. ADB would propose to finance forums where these discussions could be fostered, and would propose to do so upon the completion of the present TA study. Possible future sectors/areas of cooperation could be (i) transport (road networks); (ii) trade and investment; (iii) energy (gas and power), and (iv) environment. In trade and investment and private sector cooperation, the focus would be on promoting trade, investment and private sector activities, review of transit trade agreements, list of commodities traded under such agreements, and customs cooperation.

Status of Consulting Services: No consultant is required.

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