

**MONTHLY REPORT ON SMALL-SCALE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS  
NOT EXCEEDING \$150,000 PER PROJECT  
May 2004**

**1. Commercialization of Agriculture, Maldives**

**Executing Agency** : Ministry of Finance and Treasury  
**TA Type** : Advisory and Operational  
**TA Amount (\$'000)** : 150.0  
**ADBBO Listing** : 23 February 2004  
**Date Approved** : 19 May 2004

**Project Description :**

The purpose of the TA is to assess and, where appropriate, prioritize commercial opportunities for agriculture with strong private sector focus. This process will contribute to the Sixth National Development Plan's longer term goal of raising incomes and reducing poverty through diversified agricultural production and enhanced employment and value added in the marketing system. Moreover, the Government would like to put an emphasis on commercializing the agriculture within the domestic market, i.e., in resorts and the local community. The TA will synthesize existing information and analyses of the agricultural subsector, undertake field studies in selected areas, consult widely with public and private sector stakeholders including representatives of women entrepreneurs, women's cooperatives and micro-enterprises, and identify priority investments and provide a framework for supporting appropriate and relevant research, extension, and technical assistance in the agriculture sector. The TA will produce a comprehensive document that identifies opportunities, constraints and strategies, prioritizes approaches for development of commercial agriculture and agribusiness in the Maldives, and identifies complementary policy and institutional reforms needed.

**Status of Consulting Services:** Recruitment of consultants is underway.

**2. High-Level Conference on Asia's Economic Cooperation and Integration, Regional**

**Executing Agency** : Asian Development Bank  
**TA Type** : Conference  
**TA Amount (\$'000)** : 150.0  
**ADBBO Listing** : 16 April 2004  
**Date Approved** : 13 May 2004

**Project Description :**

The objectives of this TA are to support the preparation of papers and organize a High-Level Conference on Asia's Economic Cooperation and Integration. This will be attended by renowned scholars/experts and invited policymakers. The papers prepared and delivered at the Conference will: (i) analyze trends in economic cooperation and integration of Asia in the areas of key economic sectors, particularly infrastructure and associated softwares, trade and investment, and money and finance; (ii) discuss factors that have contributed to and are expected to drive integration of Asia; (iii) examine the factors that will contribute to or limit deeper integration in Asia, including regulatory and

policy harmonization, and environmental and social linkages; and (iv) develop a long-term vision for the sustainable economic integration in the region.

**Status of Consulting Services:** Recruitment of consultants is underway.

### 3. **Strengthening the Response to HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, Regional**

**Executing Agency** : Asian Development Bank  
**TA Type** : Study  
**TA Amount (\$'000)** : 150.0  
**ADBBO Listing** : 9 February 2004  
**Date Approved** : 21 May 2004

**Project Description :**

The purpose of this activity is to strengthen ADB's ability to support its DMCs in their national efforts to fight HIV/AIDS and achieve millennium development goals (MDGs), in particular MDG 6 which seeks to halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015. The proposed activities build on the work ADB is already supporting and, importantly, will ensure that ADB has a well-considered view of its role in the region and globally vis-à-vis HIV/AIDS prevention and care. The outputs will be (i) development of a strategic approach to HIV/AIDS for ADB; (ii) a review of best practices for the incorporation of HIV/AIDS components into infrastructure projects; and (iii) advocacy for increased support for HIV/AIDS investments through a session at the 2004 International AIDS Conference.

**Status of Consulting Services:** Recruitment of consultants is underway.