



Major Change in Scope and Amount

Project Number: 37402-3
Technical Assistance Number: 6143
5 March 2008

RETA 6143: Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (Financed by the Gender and Development Cooperation Fund)

1. On 28 November 2003, the regional technical assistance (RETA) for *Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment*¹ was approved by the Board of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for \$1,500,000, for financing on a grant basis by the Gender and Development Cooperation Fund (GDCF).² The TA amount increased to \$2.5 million on 2 January 2007.³ The RETA completion date was revised from 28 February to 31 December 2007, and then to 31 December 2008. The latest revised completion date is 31 December 2010, for which this major change in scope and increase in RETA amount were undertaken.

2. The RETA aims to help (i) ADB more consistently and effectively implement its gender and development (GAD) policy and action plan; and (ii) key government agencies in developing member countries address gender concerns in planning, development, and implementation of programs and projects to reduce gender disparities and meet the Millennium Development Goals. The RETA finances initiatives of up to \$200,000 each to support (i) gender mainstreaming in country partnership strategies; (ii) gender-inclusive loan project or program design; (iii) greater gender awareness in government planning, staffing, and project implementation; (iv) identification of good practices and lessons for more gender-inclusive projects and programs; and (v) stronger GAD partnerships and networks.

¹ ADB. 2003. *Technical Assistance for Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment*. Manila.

² ADB. 2003. *Gender and Development Cooperation Fund*. Manila. The GDCF is administered by ADB.

³ ADB. 2007. *Major Change in Scope and Amount of RETA 6143: Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment*. Manila.

3. Several initiatives supporting GAD have been approved for funding under the RETA. Given the RETA's contribution to gender mainstreaming in ADB, the RETA was extended to 31 December 2010 to enable continued progress of the Regional and Sustainable Development Department and the regional departments in implementing the GAD policy, particularly in light of the GAD Plan of Action (2008-2010).⁴

4. To accommodate new subprojects for implementation by 2010, the RETA budget was increased by \$1,000,000 to be financed from the GDCF.⁵ The new subprojects will come under the existing RETA categories, e.g., GAD support for ADB loans, GAD capacity building and GAD support for activities related to country partnership strategies. Although the increase constituted a major change in scope (\$1,000,000 exceeded 15% of the original RETA amount), the change will not fundamentally affect or alter the RETA's overall purpose, objectives and implementation arrangements.

5. The Board is notified of this major change in scope and increase in RETA amount by the equivalent of \$1,000,000, to be financed on a grant basis from the Gender and Development Cooperation Fund, and administered by the ADB. After this increase in RETA budget, the total RETA amounts to \$3,500,000.

⁴ ADB. 2007. *Gender and Development Plan of Action (2008-2010)*. Manila.

⁵ Based on the simplified approval procedures agreed to by the donors of the GDCF, ADB does not need to seek donors' endorsement for the increase in RETA amount.