

# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPLETION REPORT

Division: RSID

<b>TA No. and Name</b> TA 6031-REG: Promoting Effective Water Management Policies and Practices - Phase 1			<b>Amount Approved:</b> US\$ 4.0 million		
			<b>Revised Amount:</b> not applicable		
<b>Executing Agency:</b> ADB	<b>Source of Funding:</b> Cooperation Fund for the Water Sector (CFWS)		<b>TA Amount Undisbursed</b> US\$225,815	<b>TA Amount Utilized</b> US\$3,774,185	
<b>Date</b>			<b>Completion Date</b>		
<b>Approval</b> 26 Apr 2002	<b>Signing</b> Not applicable	<b>Fielding of Consultants</b> May 2002	<b>Original</b> 30 Jun 2003		<b>Actual</b> 31 Oct 2005
			<b>Closing Date</b>		
			<b>Original</b> 31 Dec 2003		<b>Actual</b> 11 August 2006
<b>Description</b>					
ADB's Water for All policy is premised on the Asia and Pacific region's urgent need to formulate and implement integrated approaches to water management. It seeks to promote water as a socially vital economic good that needs increasingly careful management. Improving water services for the poor and conserving water resources in the region through a participatory approach are at the heart of the policy. The water policy focuses on seven priorities: (i) promoting a national focus on water sector reform, (ii) fostering integrated water resources management (IWRM) in river basins, (iii) improving and expanding the delivery of water services, (iv) fostering the conservation of water and increasing water efficiencies, (v) promoting regional cooperation and increasing the mutually beneficial use of shared water resources within and between countries, (vi) facilitating the exchange of water sector information and experience, and (vii) improving water governance.					
<b>Expected Impact, Outcome, and Outputs</b>					
The CFWS and this first TA to draw on CFWS aimed to promote effective water management policies and practices at regional, subregional, and country levels and thereby catalyze the implementation of ADB's water policy in the Asia and Pacific region. The activities were to add value to, and increase the synergy in, ADB's water sector operations through implementing activities under six programs.					
<b>Delivery of Inputs and Conduct of Activities</b>					
The \$4.0 million TA amount was used to support activities under the six program categories of the Cooperation Fund for the Water Sector, as follows: (i) promotion and public awareness; (ii) knowledge base and capacity building; (iii) pilot and demonstration activity; (iv) water partnerships; (v) regional events and initiatives; and (vi) program coordination, monitoring and evaluation.					
The Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Social Sectors Division (RSAN, now RSID) of the Regional and Sustainable Development Department, in collaboration with concerned divisions in the regional departments, was responsible for the TA activities. The Water Sector Committee (WSC) coordinated, monitored and prioritized TA activities under the overall guidance and strategic direction of a steering committee comprising directors of the concerned divisions in ADB's regional departments, RSDD, and Office of External Relations. The water sector network (now the Water Community of Practice) served as consultation forum. Approximately 24 person-months of international and 38 person-months of domestic consultants were used to implement the activities. In general, the inputs were sufficient and satisfactory.					
<b>Evaluation of Outputs and Achievement of Outcome</b>					
The TA accomplished several outputs under the following six categories:					
<b>Promotion and Public Awareness.</b> A water awareness program (WAP) was developed which disseminated ADB's water policy, increased public awareness and stakeholder dialogue on water reform issues, improved press coverage of water issues, and supported community-level water education pilot projects. The program applied a variety of media including a water website, multimedia productions, publicity materials, public service announcements and messages, newsletter, print publications, media relations, exhibitions, and pilot community water education activities. In particular, the WAP supported the (i) production of 8 documentary films; (ii) publication of 11 volumes of the <i>Water for All</i> series; (iii) development of the <i>Water for All</i> web site ( <a href="http://www.adb.org/water">http://www.adb.org/water</a> ), now reaching more than 200,000 hits per month; (iv) circulation of a monthly electronic Water for All newsletter, now reaching around 13,000 subscribers; (v) conduct of 13 journalist workshops on water issues; and (vi) publication of various articles and preparation of a series of one-page water briefs. Feedback from DMCs on the products of the WAP indicated they were useful and were used in their dialogues with colleagues.					
<b>Knowledge Base and Capacity Building.</b> This program supported initiatives to improve knowledge management and capacity building for DMC counterparts as well as for ADB staff. Comparative analysis of water sector reforms in the region was initiated with the analysis of water services and issues in 20 Asian cities. The program supported ADB's Water Sector Network with regular seminars on water issues and development, and an assessment of water sector capacity-building needs in DMCs and within ADB. The program supported the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2nd ADB Water Week held in 2002 and 2004, respectively, which stimulated knowledge and information sharing on critical water issues, facilitated change in mindsets, and promoted good policies and sector reforms. The 2004 ADB Water Week, in particular, resulted in an agenda for change that will further add value to ADB's water work.					

**Pilot and Demonstration Activity.** This small-grants program implemented by staff in the regional departments (i) helped ADB water operations to develop, validate, and demonstrate new approaches in water policy and sector reform; (ii) disseminated the results and lessons to operations divisions and stakeholders in DMCs; and (iii) added value to the overall ADB water operations. Support also covered, on a selective basis, innovative local initiatives implemented by NGOs. The program promoted effective water management, and catalyzed integration and scaling up of pilot activities into mainstream ADB operations. Being a new facility, the timetable set for the RETA implementation failed to take into account that this facility would require an implementation period that extends beyond the completion date of the RETA. The process of evaluating and screening proposals took much longer than anticipated and processes had to be continuously fine-tuned as implementation progresses. Note that screening and approval of PDA proposals was done through a PDA subcommittee consisting of representatives from RSDD and operations department.

**Water Partnerships.** This program initiated or strengthened national and regional water partnerships. Countries of the lower Mekong River basin were assisted to develop a flood management partnership in collaboration with the Mekong River Commission and the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Hanoi. In the Pacific subregion, an existing partnership of atoll island countries was supported on the effects of climate change. Several partnerships were developed to catalyze ADB's water policy implementation in the region, including: (i) Water for the Poor–Partnerships for Action, which focused on improving the water security of the rural poor; (ii) Gender in Water Partnership, which reviewed gender mainstreaming in ADB's water operations; (iii) Network of Asian River Basin Organizations, which helped to build capacity for IWRM; (iv) regional cooperation among national water sector apex bodies, which helped to promote a national focus on water sector reforms; (v) South East Asian Water Utilities Network, which helped to improve services and financial viabilities of water utilities; (vi) partnership with Pacific countries, which helped to implement the Pacific Regional Water Action Plan; and (vii) Water for Asian Cities Program, which helped to design pro-poor urban water supply.

**Regional Events and Initiatives.** The program supported the participation of ADB staff and DMC counterparts in international conferences and seminars, and provided them the opportunity to further hone their knowledge and skills, and thus improve capacity. A stakeholder forum on water services for the poor was supported at ADB in 2002. The program also supported several regional events to promote ADB's water policy, e.g., workshops on water rights, participatory irrigation management, watershed management, water supply and sanitation, and other water topics. ADB staff were also supported to give presentations at important water events in the region and elsewhere, thereby raising awareness, building capacity, strengthening partnerships, and learning from development partners' activities.

**Program Coordination, Monitoring, and Evaluation.** This program provided the overall administration support of the TA. It assisted annual coordination meetings with other multilateral development that have similar water funds, and for the organization of regular dialogue events with NGOs on water policy and operational issues. The program also supported the interim review of ADB's water policy implementation in 2003. Annual reports on ADB's water sector committee were issued. The WSC coordinated the activities in the six categories, therein supported by five subcommittees.

The TA outputs made a distinct impact on ADB's water operations and succeeded in adding value to the implementation of ADB's water policy. The TA provided a strategic framework and financial support for improving water awareness, knowledge management, and capacity building, consistent with ADB's overarching goal of poverty reduction. The TA also improved networking and regional initiatives. In October 2003, the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs conducted a review by its Water Unit on implementing water and poverty programs under the TA, and the assessment was positive. Regular six-monthly reports of the Fund programs were prepared and provided to donors.

#### **Overall Assessment and Rating**

The objective of the TA was substantially met. The TA was successful.

#### **Major Lessons**

Through the Water Sector Committee, a balance of activities was achieved between regional departments' request for support services, such as PDA and regional events, and strategic ADB-wide initiatives for knowledge, awareness and regional cooperation. Criteria were also developed to allow for fast and consistent decision making, as evidenced in PDA processes. The experience with PDA implementation revealed the need for a more targeted marketing to lift demand from operations and more streamlined processes to facilitate implementation. The need for more emphasis on knowledge products dissemination was identified. The success of the TA is attributed to the coordinative efforts from RSAN (now RSID) and commitment from the ADB's Water Sector Committee with members from all operations departments enhanced by ready access to both domestic and international consultants.

#### **Recommendations and Follow-Up Actions**

Lesson learned were applied in succeeding RETAs drawing on CFWS. CFWS was subsequently reviewed by the Government of the Netherlands in 2006, with a good result.