

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPLETION REPORT

Division: Environment and Social Safeguard Division (RSES)

TA No. and Name TA 5939-REG: Strategies for Poverty Reduction through Urban Environmental Improvement		Amount Approved: \$500,000 Revised Amount: not revised	
Executing Agency: Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Source of Funding: Japan Special Fund (JSF)	TA Amount Undisbursed \$13,146.60	TA Amount Utilized \$486,853.40
Date		Completion Date	
Approval 27 September 2000	Signing N/A	Original 30 June 2002	Actual 30 September 2003
Fielding of Consultants 9 November 2000		Closing Date	
		Original 30 June 2002	Actual 30 April 2004
Description			
<p>Asia has experienced rapid urbanization. Compared with the 1960s when only 20 percent of Asia's population lived in urban centers, one third of Asians now live in towns or cities. Of the world's 17 cities with populations of 10 million or greater, Asia has nine. The urban population in these megacities is expected to double in a few decades.</p> <p>Rising urban poverty limits people's ability to be productive members of society. The urban poor tend to live in areas more prone to environment-related natural disasters, such as flooding and landslides, or near heavily polluting factories, dumps, and hazardous waste sites. Environmental improvement and poverty reduction policies must be developed, and actions planned and implemented in an integrated manner. ADB has supported several regional and national programs that address urban environmental improvement targeted to benefit the poor. The first Asia-Pacific Mayors' Summit on Environment in 1999, with support from TA 5816-REG: <i>Mayors' Asia Pacific Environmental Summit</i>, was a major step forward in this regard providing a forum for discussion among mayors from DMCs and industrialized countries. TA 5939 was to explore linkages between urban environment and poverty, and evaluate potential mechanisms to strengthen the ability of local governments to reduce poverty through environmental improvement. The result of the study was to be discussed at the second Mayors' Asia Pacific Environmental Summit (MAPES) in May 2001.</p>			
Objectives and Scope			
<p>The objective of the TA was to improve the knowledge and information base for use by national and urban DMC governments to address the urban environment and poverty nexus. The TA was expected to evaluate the relationship between environment improvement, poverty reduction, and public health, by preparing a detailed literature review and consulting with experts undertaking related work in the region with the support of at least four case studies.</p> <p>While the original scope intended to prepare case studies for the second MAPES in 2001, it was expanded to support (i) the second MAPES, (ii) the Inaugural Seminar of the Asia-Pacific Urban Institute in Honolulu in April 2002, and (iii) the third MAPES in September 2003. The scope was expanded also for a study on the correlation between air pollution and respiratory diseases in Metro Manila, including air quality monitoring, collection of existing data, and the analysis of these.</p>			
Evaluation of Inputs			
<p>In total, one international consultant, five domestic consultants, and eight resource persons were hired. For overall implementation of the TA, one international and one domestic consultants were recruited. For the preparation of four case studies in four cities, two domestic consultants and two resource persons were recruited. Five more resource persons were recruited for substantive discussion at the second MAPES. Two domestic consultants were recruited for the production of CD-ROM on <i>Cities Databook</i> distributed at the second MAPES. For the expended scope on the air quality study in Metro Manila, one resource person was recruited. All of these consultants and resource persons performed very well.</p> <p>The inception meeting was held on 10-11 November 2000 in Manila, participated by co-organizers of the second MAPES, as well as mayors in the region. At the meeting, substantive issues including the detailed design of the four case studies, and logistics of the second MAPES were discussed.</p> <p>The TA provided the abovementioned three events in 2001, 2002, and 2003 with substantive inputs as well as financial support for inviting mayors and local government officials at senior level, and expenses of the MAPES secretariat. Total financial support for these three events represents 30% of the total TA disbursed amount. Representatives of ADB, including both Directors and specialists of urban environmental issues participated in these events and contributed substantively. With the teamwork and highly satisfactory performance of ADB staff, TA consultants, and resource persons, these events were able to have constructive discussions on specific topics of urban environment, and highly appreciated by the participants.</p>			

The second MAPES was held on 4-6 May 2001. President Chino gave an opening statement. The case studies prepared by the TA consultants and resource persons were presented at either plenary or specific track sessions. Among four track sessions (Sustainable Water and Waste Management; Sustainable Tourism; Urban Air Quality and Sustainable Energy; and Regional Planning and Urban Growth Management), ADB managed the first track. The interim MAPES meeting and the Inaugural Seminar of the Asia-Pacific Urban Institute in Honolulu were held on 2-6 April, and discussed the issue of developing a sustainable program. The third MAPES was held on 22-24 September 2003. Among three tracks, ADB served as the lead convener for Water Supply and Wastewater Management Track, and provided support to Solid Waste Management Track and Urban Air Quality Management Track.

The study on air quality and health in Metro Manila was carried out in collaboration with University of the Philippines, Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of DENR, Department of Health, and the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI). It collected existing data on ambient air quality and respiratory diseases, and carried out reliable air quality monitoring by using imported filters and sending samples to a laboratory in the United States for analysis.

Evaluation of Outputs

The TA achieved its objectives despite delays encountered mainly because of the decision to provide financial support for follow-up MAPES activities in June 2003 and postponement of MAPES 3 from June 2003 to September 2003.

Outputs were produced efficiently, satisfying planned results. The case studies on Ebeye (RMI), Hyderabad (IND), Phuket (THA), and Wuhan (PRC) analyzed environmental problems considering the relationship between environment and poverty aspects. The studies raised awareness of the participating mayors and local government officials on the importance of the issues. The discussion at the second MAPES was utilized at the ADB's Annual Meeting Seminar 2001 on *Urban Environmental Dilemma and Development Policy in Asia* on 7 May 2001, with the participation of some resource persons as well as the Mayor of Honolulu. Copies of CD-ROM titled "Cities Databook," and a second CD-ROM containing the case studies were produced by the TA and distributed at the second MAPES. These provided the participants with information on urban issues. A CD-ROM on presentations at the third MAPES was also prepared and made available. At the second MAPES, mayors presented commitments on how and what they would do to improve environment and poverty situation in their cities within a certain period of time. This approach was adopted also at the Inaugural Seminar of the Asia-Pacific Urban Institute in April 2002, and the third MAPES in September 2003. This enabled the MAPES to strengthen and follow up their commitments at policy and project levels.

The study on air quality and health in Metro Manila was not able to discover statistically meaningful correlation between diseases and pollution. However, it provided the data on air pollution and diseases in Metro Manila. The data with recommendations for the improvement was given to EMB and the project team that is handling Loan 1663-1665-PHI: Metro Manila Air Quality Improvement Sector Development Program.

Overall Assessment and Rating

The TA was successful. It met its objectives and terms of reference. The TA (i) raised commitments of mayors and governors, and (ii) built capacity of local governments through the provision of specific examples. Support for not only the second MAPES but also the following two events as well as an additional practical study in Metro Manila was possible, since the TA resources were used efficiently mainly because of (i) efforts of the City and County of Honolulu, and (ii) human resources inputs from ADB staff.

Major Lessons Learned

The approach of mayors' commitment with regular follow-up was found to be effective, since initiatives and leadership of mayors and governors with a strong ownership are important to actually improve the urban environment, together with consideration for the poor. Partnership with other organizations and donors such as International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), International City/County Management Association (ICMA), US Asia Environmental Partnership (US-AEP) enriched the discussion on the topic and strengthened the relationship between ADB and local governments of DMCs by linking ADB's efforts through loan projects and TAs with those by local governments and such international organizations and donors.

Recommendations and Follow-Up Actions

Since the MAPES is a biennial summit, ADB should consider how it can follow up the commitments and continue its support. Closer linkages with other similar kind of forums such as Cities Alliance, ADBI's Mayors' Forum, Kitakyushu Initiative Network, should be sought to sustain the efforts efficiently.