



# Technical Assistance Report

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Project Number: 37648  
December 2005

## Technical Assistance South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation III

Asian Development Bank

## ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
BBIN	–	Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal
BIMSTEC	–	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
CAM	–	country advisors' meeting
CSP	–	country strategy and program
CSPU	–	country strategy and program update
ICT	–	information and communication technology
GMS	–	Greater Mekong Subregion
MKRD	–	Mekong Department of ADB
RETA	–	regional technical assistance
RCSP	–	regional cooperation strategy and program
RCSPU	–	regional cooperation strategy and program update
SAARC	–	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SABF	–	South Asia Business Forum
SAOC	–	South Asia Operations Coordination Division
SARD	–	South Asia Department of ADB
SASEC	–	South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation
STF	–	Sustainable Tourism Forum
TA	–	technical assistance

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CLASSIFICATION

<b>Targeting Classification</b>	–	General Intervention
<b>Sectors</b>	–	Multisector, transport and communications, industry and trade, energy
<b>Subsectors</b>	–	Multimodal transport and sector development, trade, energy sector development
<b>Themes</b>	–	Regional cooperation, sustainable economic growth
<b>Subthemes</b>	–	Fostering physical infrastructure development, addressing information and communication technology issues, developing rural areas

## NOTE

In this report, "\$" refers to US dollars.

<b>Vice President</b>	L. Jin, Operations Group1
<b>Director General</b>	K. Senga, South Asia Department (SARD)
<b>Director</b>	R. Vokes, Operations Coordination Division, SARD
<b>Team leader</b>	M. Nagata, Principal Country Programs Specialist, SARD
<b>Team member</b>	H. Lee, Economist, SARD

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has since 2001 supported the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) program, which was launched at the request of the South Asian Growth Quadrangle, formed by Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal (BBIN) through two regional technical assistance (RETA) projects.<sup>1</sup> SASEC working groups have been established in six priority sectors: transport; tourism; trade, investment, and private sector cooperation; energy and power; environment; and information and communications technology (ICT).

2. The overall progress of the SASEC program has been generally good, despite its relatively short history. This is particularly true in the areas of improving subregional transport connectivity, promoting regional tourism, enhancing private sector cooperation, and helping establish ICT connectivity. Four loan projects amounting to \$383.3 million and 14 technical assistance (TA) projects totaling to \$6.7 million have been approved for projects identified under the SASEC program.

3. The SASEC program was initiated at a time when limited progress was being made in regional cooperation under the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation<sup>2</sup> (SAARC). Over the past 2 years, the environment for regional cooperation in South Asia has significantly improved. Prospects for region-wide cooperation under the SAARC framework are better now as the results of the 12th SAARC Summit held in Islamabad in January 2004 and the 13<sup>th</sup> SAARC Summit held in Dhaka in November 2005, and the associated improvements in political relations within the region. At the same time, the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation<sup>3</sup> (BIMSTEC) has emerged as an important cross-regional cooperative initiative joining countries in South Asia and the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS).

4. Against this backdrop, the SASEC Country Advisors' Meeting<sup>4</sup> (CAM) was held in Manila on 22-23 July 2005 to wrap-up the activities under SASEC Phases I and II and to discuss the future direction of SASEC. Noting the importance of regional and cross-regional cooperation to social and economic development, BBIN at CAM reaffirmed their strong commitments to continue the SASEC program, with its project- and program-based subregional cooperation, as an effective complement to broader efforts toward regional and cross-regional cooperation through SAARC and BIMSTEC. CAM also agreed that membership in the sector working groups will be made flexible to include other countries in the subregion.

5. Building upon the progress of SASEC Phases I and II, following the agreements made at the CAM, and in line with ADB's regional cooperation strategy for South Asia, the TA for SASEC Phase III<sup>5</sup> (Phase III) will continue to support and strengthen subregional cooperation in South Asia. The TA framework is presented in Appendix 1.

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<sup>1</sup> ADB. 2000. *Technical Assistance for Identification and Prioritization of Subregional Projects in South Asia*. Manila. (TA 5936-REG, approved on 22 September 2000, for \$785,000); and ADB. 2002. *Technical Assistance for South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation II*. Manila (TA 6010-REG, approved on 13 December 2002, for \$500,000).

<sup>2</sup> SAARC was formed in 1985 by the seven South Asian countries, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

<sup>3</sup> BIMSTEC was formed in December 1997 by Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. Bhutan and Nepal became members of BIMSTEC in February 2004. All SASEC member countries are now also members of BIMSTEC. At the first BIMSTEC Summit held in July 2004, a program for economic cooperation was set out in six sectors: trade and investment, energy, tourism, transport and communications, technology, and fisheries.

<sup>4</sup> Country advisors comprise the secretaries and joint secretaries of the Ministry of Finance of SASEC countries. CAM was attended by the country advisors and the chairpersons of the six sector working groups.

<sup>5</sup> First appeared in *ADB Business Opportunities* (internet edition) on 31 May 2004.

## II. ISSUES

6. The SASEC subregion, comprising BBIN, is one of the largest concentrations of the poor in the world, reflecting a high incidence of poverty in Bangladesh, Nepal, and India's eastern and northeastern states.<sup>6</sup> The subregion has a population of about 1.16 billion people (18.4% of the world population and 92.8% of the South Asian population) and a gross domestic product totaling \$543 billion (1.7% of the world product and 86.5% of the South Asian product). The SASEC subregion has great potential for economic development, as it is endowed with rich natural and human resources as well as a rich historical heritage and vibrant and varied culture. The subregion shares borders with Myanmar and the People's Republic of China, which provide gateways to Southeast Asia and the wider East Asian region. While the SASEC subregion has achieved strong growth, averaging 5.7% between 2000 and 2004—one of the highest growth rates in the world—the region has yet to reach its full potential. Subregional economic cooperation, by helping to eliminate physical and other barriers and ensuring a more optimum use of resources, is one important way to help the subregion realize its potential.

7. During Phase I and II, in addition to helping build mutual trust and confidence among BBIN, the SASEC program has assisted BBIN in setting the goal and objectives of each working group; identifying and prioritizing subregional projects; and supporting the implementation of priority projects.<sup>7</sup> In particular, the six major corridors<sup>8</sup> identified under the SASEC program will improve subregional connectivity in terms of physical conditions and operational efficiency. Regional tourism on the two themes of ecotourism and Buddhist circuits, which started to gain momentum with strong commitment from both the public and private sector, has created new opportunities in tourism and the service sector. Removing trade and non-trade barriers identified under the SASEC program will facilitate the movement of goods and attract increased investment from both within and outside the region. Establishing regional ICT connectivity among BBIN will contribute to reducing the cost of communication and enhancing the efficiency of doing business in the subregion. Through cooperation, rich indigenous energy resources in the subregion can be harnessed and supplied more efficiently to the benefit of both energy-rich and energy-deficient countries. Built on such progress and in view of unexplored potential benefits, implementing the priority projects needs to be further accelerated during Phase III. In addition, reflecting the more favorable environment for regional cooperation, the SASEC program will broaden the geographical areas to explore greater potential benefits, including the other South Asian countries, as well as the GMS countries during Phase III.

8. Like most ADB-assisted subregional cooperative programs, the SASEC program focuses primarily on project-based cooperative activities. A subregional and project-based approach provides a practical and effective means of facilitating regional cooperation, particularly when it is at a relatively early stage. This makes possible producing tangible results in a short time period, which in turn helps to further strengthen the process of cooperation among the participating countries.

9. Subregional cooperative activities can also act as building blocks to wider regional integration. The successful implementation of subregional projects and programs shows the benefits that can be realized through cooperation and, by demonstration, encourage the

<sup>6</sup> Khanna, Sushil. 2001. *Trade and Investment in the South Asia Subregion for Economic Cooperation: Barriers and Opportunities*. Calcutta. Indian Institute of Management.

<sup>7</sup> RETA provides support to identify and prioritize cooperation projects among the countries, while the separate stand-alone TAs and/or loans provide support the actual implementation.

<sup>8</sup> Six corridors are: (i) Kathmandu to Birganj/Raxaul to Kolkata/Haldia; (ii) Thimphu to Phuentsholing to Siliguri to Kolkata/Haldia; (iii) Kathmandu to Khakarbitta, via the Phulbari Corridor, to Banglabandha to Khulna/Monghla or Dhaka/Chittagong; (iv) Kolkata via Sunderbhans via the Jamuna and Brahmaputra rivers to Guwahati/Assam; (v) Kolkata to Gedes/Darsana to Bangladesh; and (vi) Kolkata to Petrapole/Benapole to Jessore to Khulna/Monghla or Dhaka/Chittagong.

participation of other neighboring countries, thereby facilitating wider cooperation and integration. At the same time, project-based subregional cooperative activities can complement and supplement broader regional cooperative initiatives agreed under existing regional cooperation forums such as SAARC and BIMSTEC.

10. Noting the progress made to date and a strong commitment to continue the SASEC program, CAM agreed on a number of measures to further strengthen the program and enhance its role in supporting regional cooperation in the future:

- (i) There should be a greater focus on results in terms of implementing more tangible projects and outputs, moving beyond the study phase and into specific investments.<sup>9</sup>
- (ii) More interaction and cooperation need to take place between the SASEC sector working groups to maximize the synergy of the cooperative activities.<sup>10</sup>
- (iii) An effective mechanism needs to be developed to facilitate closer coordination and cooperation among SASEC, SAARC, and BIMSTEC.
- (iv) Membership in the working groups should be open to other neighboring countries if this is seen as mutually beneficial to all the parties involved.<sup>11</sup>
- (v) To further strengthen country's ownership, the desirability of the participating countries' taking more proactive role in the SASEC activities is noted. The participation of other stakeholders, including private sector and other development partners, also needs to be further encouraged to strengthen policy dialogues for cooperation and to mobilize more resources in the SASEC projects.

### **III. THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

#### **A. Impact and Outcome**

11. The overall goal of TA is to accelerate pro-poor economic growth in the South Asian countries participating in the SASEC program through subregional cooperation, and thereby achieve poverty reduction in the subregion. The main purpose of TA is to identify and prioritize subregional projects primarily within BBIN but also with other South Asian countries and with GMS countries in close coordination and cooperation with SAARC and BIMSTEC.

12. TA will (i) provide a forum for effective dialogue and interaction among the participating countries, the private sector, and development partners to further deepen mutual understanding and trust for subregional cooperation; (ii) develop background and issue papers and conduct pre-feasibility studies for identifying and prioritizing subregional projects;<sup>12</sup> and (iii) support the working groups in implementing the agreed priority projects and activities through discussion and coordination at SASEC meetings.

#### **B. Methodology and Key Activities**

13. TA will organize regular SASEC meetings of the country advisors and sector working groups, with joint or back-to-back sector working group meetings to maximize synergies among

<sup>9</sup> While the need for "additionality" and "concessionality" of ADB's lending for regional cooperation projects was also raised at CAM, this is being discussed in the context of the development of ADB's new overall strategy on regional cooperation and integration.

<sup>10</sup> For example, the transport working group and the trade, investment, and private sector cooperation working group can work together for the development of subregional transport infrastructure and the associated agreements on procedures and documentation.

<sup>11</sup> The tourism working group has invited Sri Lanka to be a new member of the working group.

<sup>12</sup> Prefeasibility studies are for projects to be newly identified, and feasibility studies are for implementing the projects and programs.

the activities of the working groups. TA will also support identifying and prioritizing projects concerning countries in both South Asia and GMS, particularly aiming for enhanced connectivity in transport and ICT, and tourism development. This can be facilitated by organizing meetings between the SASEC working groups and similar working groups under BIMSTEC and SAARC, as well as other selected meetings, workshops, and forums, to encourage interaction and strengthen synergies among SASEC, BIMSTEC, and SAARC.

14. TA will engage national, regional, and international consultants to provide technical, advisory, and administrative support services to facilitate discussions for identifying projects among the participating countries in the SASEC program. A core group of consultants includes a senior TA advisor, two regional cooperation specialists, and sector experts.

15. TA will disseminate information related to subregional cooperative activities to increase awareness of the SASEC program among all stakeholders and facilitate more active participation of stakeholders in SASEC activities. SASEC publications, including a quarterly SASEC newsletter and consultant reports, will be prepared and circulated. The SASEC website ([www.adb.org/sasec](http://www.adb.org/sasec)) will continue to be maintained and updated.

16. TA will promote the following particular activities in each sector.

- (i) The transport working group will focus on (a) upgrading the six priority corridors (see para. 7 and footnote 7), (b) improving the trade logistics system, (c) extending the physical link between BBIN and GMS through BIMSTEC, and (d) strengthening the institutional capacity of the agencies and private sector entities involved in transport development.
- (ii) The tourism working group will continue to promote regional tourism based on the ADB-assisted Tourism Development Plan study, in cooperation with BIMSTEC. Public–private partnerships and establishing a funding mechanism for the private sector projects identified in the plan will be further explored.
- (iii) The trade, investment, and private sector cooperation working group will focus on trade facilitation measures to be recommended in separate studies.<sup>13</sup> Working group activities will be designed to supplement existing work on regional and global trade agreements made under the World Trade Organization, SAARC, and BIMSTEC. The activities of South Asia Business Forum (SABF)<sup>14</sup> will be strengthened to promote more active private sector participation in SASEC activities. To further facilitate foreign and regional investments in the region, particularly in the identified SASEC projects, investors' forum(s) will be organized during Phase III.
- (iv) The ICT working group will focus on implementing the programs and projects recommended by the ADB-assisted SASEC ICT Development Master Plan study and the Community e-Centers project.
- (v) In view of continued sensitivities and complexities in dealing with cross-border environmental issues, the environment working group will focus primarily on information sharing, capacity development, and knowledge-based management, rather than on developing cross-border projects.
- (vi) The energy and power working group will identify the most effective way of taking cooperation forward reflecting the improving environment for cooperation<sup>15</sup> in this

<sup>13</sup> These are (i) mutual recognition of manufacturing processes; (ii) towards sharing common facilities in the SASEC region; (iii) simplification of customs procedures and harmonization of trade documents; and (iv) affirmative action for landlocked countries.

<sup>14</sup> SABF was established in 2002 comprising the chambers of commerce and industries of the SASEC countries.

<sup>15</sup> The importance of energy sector cooperation was highlighted at the 13<sup>th</sup> SAARC Summit. Particularly, the need to constitute a South Asian Energy Dialogue process involving all stakeholders, was underlined.

sector. Possible areas of cooperation include capacity development and the promotion of regional trade in electricity and gas.

### **C. Cost and Financing**

17. The TA cost is estimated at \$1 million and will be financed on a grant basis by ADB's TA funding program. The detailed cost estimates are shown in Appendix 2.

### **D. Implementation Arrangements**

18. ADB is the Executing Agency, and TA will be implemented over a period of 18 months starting on 1 January 2006. The regional cooperation unit of the Operations Coordination Division (SAOC) of the South Asia Department (SARD) will be the division responsible for overall TA administration, including the activities of the SASEC Secretariat already established under the SASEC Phase I and II. Designated sector focal persons from relevant SARD sector divisions will assist the respective working groups in identifying and implementing regional projects and/or programs. These focal persons and the staff of both the SAOC regional cooperation unit and the respective resident missions will form a SASEC team, which will oversee overall implementation of the SASEC program. For matters related to BIMSTEC, SAOC will work in close coordination and cooperation with the Mekong Department (MKRD).

19. The secretaries of the ministries of finance from the participating countries will be the country advisors and provide overall supervision of TA, in charge of coordination in their country. Each sector working group will be represented by the secretaries of the line ministries of the participating countries and will provide technical inputs for TA implementation. The chair countries of the working groups designated under SASEC Phase I and II will continue to preside over their respective working groups and take a lead role in designing and facilitating the activities of the sector concerned. They are the secretaries of (i) Bangladesh for energy and power; (ii) Bhutan for environment; (iii) India for trade, investment, and private sector cooperation, and ICT; and (iv) Nepal for transport and tourism. The sector chair will also take the lead in interactions with other sector working group members. ADB will support the participation of appropriate representatives of SAARC and BIMSTEC in SASEC working group meetings as well as the participation of the SASEC representatives in the selected SAARC and BIMSTEC meetings. An organization chart showing the implementation arrangements is presented in Appendix 4.

20. Eighteen person-months of international consultancy services and 54 person-months domestic consultancy services will be provided through individual consultant selection. Technical work will be undertaken by sector specialists, international consultants, and/or domestic consultants from the countries participating in the SASEC program. Advisory, technical, administrative, and logistic work will be undertaken by the SASEC Secretariat, composed of two domestic consultants under the supervision of the SASEC team. The consultants' selection will be made in accordance with *ADB Guidelines on the Use of Consultants* and other arrangements acceptable to ADB for the selection and engagement of domestic consultants. The outline terms of reference of the consultants are given in Appendix 3.

## **IV. THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION**

21. The President, acting under the authority delegated by the Board, has approved the provision of technical assistance not exceeding the equivalent of \$1,000,000 on a grant basis for South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation III, and hereby reports this action to the Board.

## DESIGN AND MONITORING FRAMEWORK

Design Summary	Performance Targets/Indicators	Data Sources/Reporting Mechanisms	Assumptions and Risks
<p><b>Impact</b> Accelerated pro-poor economic growth in the South Asian countries participating in the SASEC program through subregional cooperation to achieve poverty reduction of the subregion</p>	<p>Significant improvement in the countries participating in the SASEC program in terms of economic growth and poverty reduction</p> <p>Significant improvement in infrastructure and communications connectivity</p> <p>Significant improvement in regional trade volume</p>	<p>Regional and national statistics</p> <p>SASEC progress reports</p>	<p><b>Assumption</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment and support of the participating countries to the SASEC program</li> </ul> <p><b>Risks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frequent changes in the membership of the Country Advisors Group and sector working groups</li> <li>• Insecure political and macroeconomic conditions in the region</li> <li>• Varying implementation capacity and implementation timing of the participating countries in the SASEC program</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcome</b> Subregional projects identified and prioritized primarily within BBIN but also with other South Asian countries and with GMS countries</p> <p>Implementation of the priority subregional projects facilitated and accelerated</p>	<p>Number of subregional projects agreed upon for implementation among the participating countries in the SASEC program</p> <p>Timely implementation of subregional projects</p>	<p>SARD RCSP(U) and CSP(U)s of SRAD countries</p> <p>SASEC progress reports</p> <p>Project progress reports</p>	<p><b>Assumption</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timely and necessary inputs from the participating countries and stakeholders</li> </ul> <p><b>Risks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different prioritization and perspectives on subregional projects among the participating countries in the SASEC program</li> <li>• Inconsistency and different priorities given to subregional projects and the national agendas and programs of other stakeholders</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outputs</b> Effective dialogue and interaction among the participating countries, private sector, and development partners to further deepen mutual understanding and trust for subregional cooperation</p>	<p>Number of meetings and dialogues organized</p> <p>Number of cooperative activities and agreements</p>	<p>Summary of discussions and correspondence with the participating countries, private sector, and other development partners</p> <p>SASEC progress reports</p>	<p><b>Assumptions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong support and assistance from the participating countries in planning and preparing for the meetings</li> <li>• Existence of interest of</li> </ul>

Design Summary	Performance Targets/Indicators	Data Sources/Reporting Mechanisms	Assumptions and Risks
<p>Background and issue papers and pre-feasibility studies conducted for identification and prioritization of subregional projects</p> <p>SASEC quarterly newsletter</p>	<p>Timely assessment and recommendations as designed</p> <p>Number of newsletters to be released and disseminated</p>	<p>Consultants' reports</p> <p>SASEC progress reports</p> <p>SASEC Progress Reports</p>	<p>SASEC in cooperating with SAARC and BIMSTEC</p> <p><b>Risk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delays of planned meeting times and/or changes in venue due to unexpected security concerns in the region</li> </ul>
<p><b>Activities with Milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organize regular SASEC meetings such as the Country Advisors' Meeting, sector working group meetings, and joint sector working group meetings</li> <li>Organize meetings between the SASEC working groups and with similar working groups under BIMSTEC and SAARC</li> <li>Organize other consultation meetings, workshops, and forums as necessary</li> <li>Engage national, regional, and international consultants to provide technical, advisory, and administrative support services</li> <li>Disseminate knowledge and information related to subregional cooperative activities including the updates on the SASEC program</li> </ul>			<p><b>Inputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advisory, technical, and administrative support services from consultants (18 person-months of international and 54 person-months domestic consultancy services) (\$545,000)</li> <li>Meetings, including Country Advisors, sector working groups, and others (\$350,000)</li> <li>Technical and administrative support including publication (\$15,000)</li> <li>Equipment (\$10,000)</li> <li>Administrative expense and contingencies (\$80,000)</li> </ul>

CSP = country strategy and program, CSPU = country strategy and program update, RCSP = regional cooperation strategy and program, RCSPU = regional cooperation strategy and program update.

**COST ESTIMATES AND FINANCING PLAN**  
(\$'000)

Item	Total Cost
<b>Asian Development Bank Financing<sup>a</sup></b>	
1. Consultants <sup>b</sup>	545
a. Remuneration and Per Diem	450
i. Sector Experts (International)	288
ii. Senior TA Advisor (Domestic)	64
iii. Regional Cooperation Specialists (Domestic)	98
b. International and Local Travel	95
i. Sector Experts (International)	36
ii. Senior TA Advisor (Domestic)	21
iii. Regional Cooperation Specialists (Domestic)	38
2. Subregional Conferences and Meetings <sup>b</sup>	350
i. Working Group Meetings	220
ii. Country Advisors' Meetings (Manila)	90
iii. Other Meetings and Participatory Workshops	40
3. Technical and Administrative Support	15
a. Publications	10
b. Administrative Expense	5
4. Equipment <sup>c</sup>	10
5. Contingencies	80
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>

TA = technical assistance.

<sup>a</sup> Financed by the Asian Development Bank's technical assistance funding program.

<sup>b</sup> TA is basically to support facilitation of dialogue through providing forums and/or meetings with technical, advisory, and administrative assistance from consultants, which explains the large portion of the budget for consultants and meetings.

<sup>c</sup> This is budgeted for supporting secretariat service and includes computers, printers, projector, etc.

Source: Asian Development Bank estimates.

## OUTLINE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANTS

### A. Sector Experts (international)

1. Sector experts (individual international consultants) with extensive experience in the South Asia region in any of the following fields: regional cooperation; transportation (multimodal transport/logistics/border procedures); tourism; energy and power (energy exchange/trading); environment; trade (trade facilitation), investment, and private sector cooperation; and information and communication technology (ICT) will be engaged, as required, to provide sector-specific advisory and technical services.

2. The sector experts will

- (i) conduct field visits to the participating countries and meet with concerned officials, private sector representatives, and other stakeholders to assess the cooperation opportunities in the sector concerned;
- (ii) analyze and prepare a background paper for regional cooperation for the relevant sector including recommendations for projects within BBIN as well as with adjacent countries and, subsequently, with other South Asian countries and GMS countries through SAARC and BIMSTEC;
- (iii) assess opportunities and activities to promote private sector participation in the six sectors of cooperation;
- (iv) carry out prefeasibility studies, as necessary, for the projects identified and prioritized;
- (v) revise and finalize completed reports on the sector concerned based on reviews and comments from the participating countries and ADB;
- (vi) develop and maintain a consolidated information database for the sector, covering all the participating countries; and
- (vii) organize and facilitate consultations and participatory meetings of the respective sector working groups and participate in SASEC meetings as necessary.

3. The consultants will report to ADB's sector focal person and mission leader for TA, in close cooperation with the respective sector working groups and government counterparts.

### B. Senior TA Advisor (1, domestic, 18 months)

4. One consultant, based in Manila, Philippines, will be recruited to

- (i) provide advice on the matters related to the TA administration, including overall coordination, consolidation, and monitoring of various activities under TA;
- (ii) assist in formulating the Regional Cooperation Strategy and Program and its updates;
- (iii) help the SASEC team and the sector experts prepare background and briefing papers;
- (iv) prepare presentation materials for meetings, forums and conferences, and other TA-related events;
- (v) review, comment on, and edit consultant's reports and other documents and papers, as required;
- (vi) prepare and update progress reports on TA activities and individual related projects as well as quarterly SASEC newsletters for publication;

- (vii) prepare summaries of proceedings of meetings, in coordination and consultation with the ADB focal persons concerned;
- (viii) backstop activities and meetings under TA as well as joint activities with other regional and subregional cooperative programs; and
- (ix) participate in and assist ADB missions.

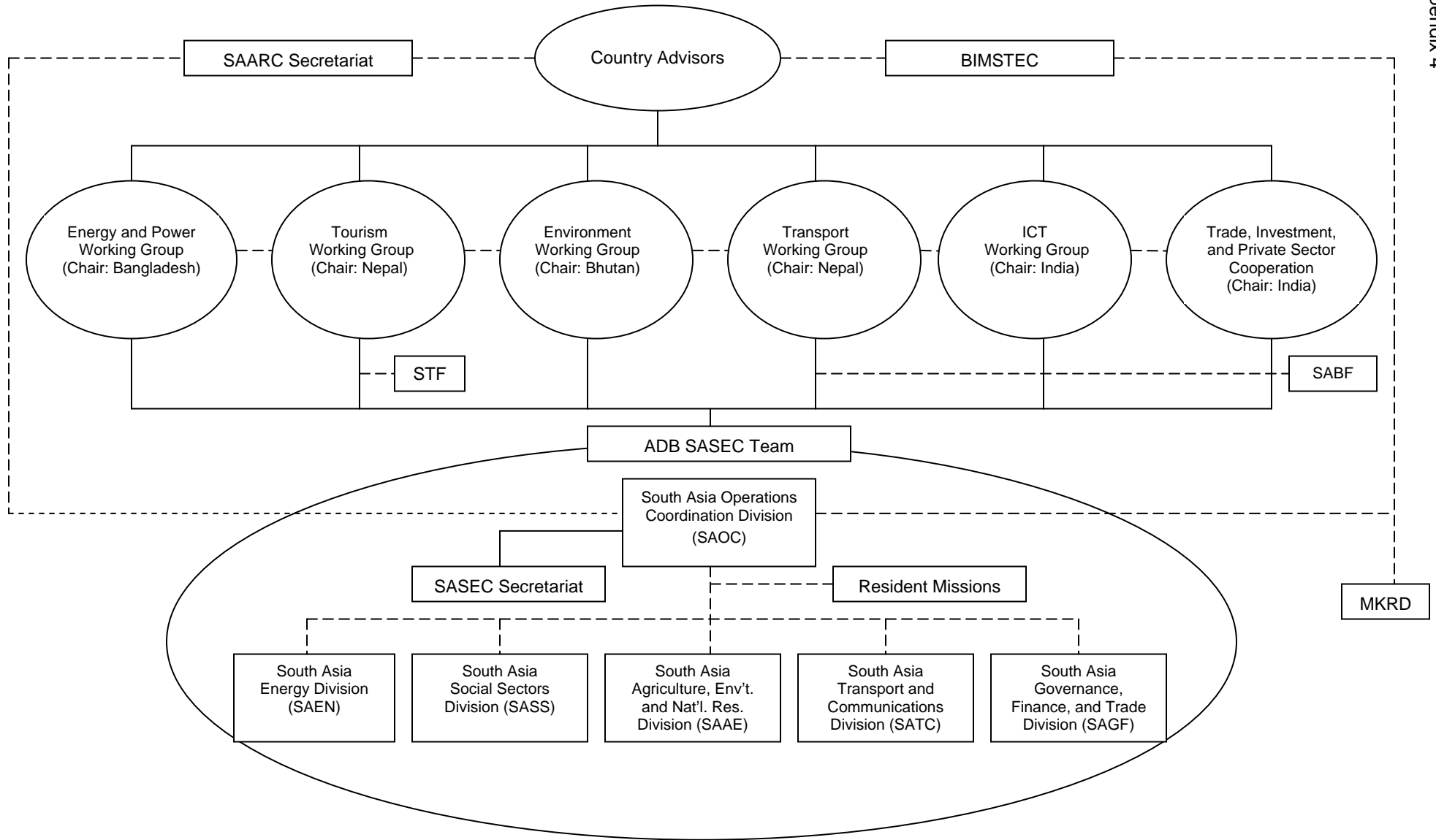
**C. Regional Cooperation Specialist (domestic, 18 months)**

5. One consultant, based in Manila, Philippines, will be engaged to
- (i) help the SASEC team carry out studies and produce papers related to regional cooperation in general and SASEC activities in particular;
  - (ii) develop, maintain, and upgrade the subregional information system and webpage covering all TA activities;
  - (iii) help the SASEC team prepare presentation materials and provide backstopping services to meetings and briefings on regional cooperation;
  - (iv) help the ADB focal persons and sector experts prepare project profiles of the regional projects;
  - (v) coordinate, compile, and monitor various activities under TA;
  - (vi) prepare quarterly monitoring reports on TA implementation that cover, among other things, budget summaries, the status of SASEC and other related activities, and any outstanding issues;
  - (vii) assist the preparation of publishing quarterly SASEC news letters;
  - (viii) liaise and coordinate with the participating countries and sector experts for implementing projects and other TA-related matters; and
  - (ix) participate in and assist ADB missions.

**D. In-Country Regional Cooperation Specialist (domestic, 18 months)**

6. One domestically recruited consultant in a resident mission will perform the following responsibilities:
- (i) liaise with the Government and coordinate among the SASEC team, other resident missions, and sector experts;
  - (ii) establish and maintain, through regular contact and consultation, working relationships with the key government agencies responsible for regional cooperation;
  - (iii) help the SASEC team prepare documents and arrange meetings related to TA implementation;
  - (iv) prepare and maintain a database of country reports and documents related to TA activities;
  - (v) ensure the smooth flow of documents and communications among stakeholders;
  - (vi) participate in and assist ADB missions; and
  - (vii) carry out tasks related to regional cooperation, as required.

### IMPLEMENTATION CHART



BIMSTEC = Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, ICT = information and communications technology, MKRD = Mekong Department, SAARC = South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, SABF= South Asia Business Forum, SASEC = South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation, STF = Sustainable Tourism Forum.  
 Source: Asian Development Bank.