



Technical Assistance Report

Project Number: 39023
November 2005

Technical Assistance Greater Silk Road Initiative 2006

Asian Development Bank

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
CAP	–	comprehensive action plan
CAREC	–	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation
MC	–	ministerial conference
MI	–	multilateral institutions
OIF	–	overall institutional framework
RBR	–	regional business roundtable
RCSP	–	regional cooperation strategy and program
RETA	–	regional technical assistance
RM	–	resident mission
SCC	–	sectoral coordinating committee
SOM	–	senior officials' meeting
TA	–	technical assistance

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CLASSIFICATION

Targeting Classification	–	General Intervention
Sector	–	Multisector (Transport and communications, energy, industry and trade)
Subsector	–	Multimodal transport and sector development, energy sector development, trade
Themes	–	Sustainable economic growth, regional cooperation, capacity development
Subthemes	–	Promoting economic efficiency and enabling markets, fostering physical infrastructure development, institutional development

NOTE

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

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program, initiated by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in 1997, has evolved into a multicountry and multi-institutional framework that comprises eight participating countries (Afghanistan,¹ Azerbaijan, People's Republic of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan) and an alliance of six multilateral institutions (ADB, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Monetary Fund, Islamic Development Bank, United Nations Development Programme, and World Bank), with ADB servicing as program Secretariat. At the core of the Program lies the overall institutional framework (OIF), which consists of (i) an annual ministerial conference (MC) that provides overall guidance and makes policy and directional decisions, (ii) senior officials' meeting (SOM) that coordinates on cross-sectoral issues and prepares for the ministerial conference, (iii) sectoral coordinating committees (SCCs) at the operational level that coordinate sectorwide issues and implementation, and (iv) a national focal point in each participating country to ensure effective coordination among government agencies and other parties concerned.

2. At the 4TH MC on CAREC in November 2005, the ministers renewed their commitment to regional cooperation, reconfirmed the basic principles² of the OIF, and agreed that the processing and implementation of regional initiatives should be accelerated.

3. ADB adopted in 2004 the CAREC Member Countries Regional Cooperation Strategy and Program 2005–2007 (RCSP).³ The RCSP enshrined the establishment in 2002 of the OIF as a milestone in the partnership and trust among program participants (footnote 3, para. 72). Further strengthening of the OIF forms part of ADB's expanded program for regional cooperation (footnote 3, Figure 1, p. 24), which is critical to achieving the four strategic objectives of the CAREC Program.⁴ To this end, the assistance pipeline for nonlending products and services as envisaged by the RCSP included the Greater Silk Road Initiative 2006. The technical assistance (TA) design and monitoring framework is in Appendix 1.⁵

II. ISSUES

4. As initiator of the CAREC Program and program Secretariat, ADB approved from October 2000 to June 2005 eleven loans totaling \$275.1 million for seven regional investment projects, and 23 CAREC-related TA projects totaling \$17.4 million. ADB has also leveraged cofinancing amounting to \$140.7 million for three projects.

5. In light of ADB's policy paper on regional cooperation,⁶ the CAREC Program has followed a phased approach, which started with background economic analysis and institutions assessment, focused thereafter on identification and prefeasibility analysis of investment projects, and then expanded to support for policy dialogue and institution development.

¹ Afghanistan joined the CAREC Program as a full participant at the CAREC Senior Officials' Meeting in October 2005.

² Including consensus, pragmatism, and results orientation.

³ ADB. 2004. *Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Member Countries Regional Cooperation Strategy and Program (2005–2007)*. Manila (Doc. IN.158-04).

⁴ That is, (i) increasing trade and integration with large markets, both globally and in the region's proximity; (ii) improving economic cooperation within the region to reduce costs of transport and facilitate transit; (iii) improving supplies of energy; and (iv) tackling negative externalities.

⁵ The TA first appeared in *ADB Business Opportunities* (internet edition) on 17 June 2005.

⁶ ADB. 1994. *Bank Support for Regional Cooperation*. Manila (Doc. R60-94).

6. Prior to this TA, a number of “umbrella” regional technical assistance (RETAs) were approved and implemented for the CAREC Program, including those for the development and continuous functioning of its OIF.⁷ Major lessons learned from these RETAs are the following: (i) regional cooperation is a long process that calls for sustained political will and mutual trust; (ii) lack of proper understanding of the actual benefits and costs of regional cooperation constitutes an obstacle in promoting regional cooperation; (iii) institutional and capacity development is urgently required for the success of the regional initiative; and (iv) there is need to show tangible and concrete results from key regional projects to further advance regional cooperation.⁸ At the same time, it is also noted that promoting regional cooperation is resource intensive, though in the long term the efforts made and costs incurred could be more than compensated by more efficient economy of the region, sustained economic growth of the participating countries, and higher living standards of their people.

7. During the period 2004–2005, regional cooperation under the CAREC Program has maintained its momentum and made further achievements, including (i) the successful holding of the 3RD MC in November 2004 and the 4TH MC in November 2005, where ministers of the participating countries provided specific guidance on further direction and activities of the CAREC Program; (ii) strengthened coordination among the MIs in the CAREC framework; (iii) discussion at the SOM in April 2005 and general consensus on a number of key strategic questions facing CAREC, including geographic and program scope, treatment of policy agenda, positioning of CAREC vis-à-vis other regional initiatives, effectiveness and results-based orientation of the Program, and promotion of private sector participation; (iv) progress made in all priority areas of the Program; and (v) provision of lending and nonlending assistance to support regional cooperation in Central Asia.⁹

8. Despite the progress so far, many important challenges that remain or are emerging need to be properly addressed if the CAREC Program is to achieve more tangible results: (i) the benefits of regional cooperation need to be understood better and by a wider audience; (ii) mutual trust among CAREC countries needs to be further enhanced, including at sector and working levels where political will and in-principle agreement on regional economic cooperation have to be translated into concrete and concerted efforts in implementation; (iii) there is need for the OIF to be further consolidated and results-oriented, from which CAREC participating countries could find sustained enthusiasm and momentum for regional economic cooperation, and on which the MIs will continue to set the foundation of their alliance; and (iv) though the CAREC Program remains highly relevant for the participating countries, the development assistance community must recognize that regional cooperation in such a politically and socially sensitive region as Central Asia requires realistic targets and approaches, and sustained and long-term financial support.

9. In view of the imperative need for regional cooperation and the progress that has been made by the CAREC Program, and to overcome difficulties and challenges faced, the CAREC participating countries have been calling upon ADB to play a greater role in regional cooperation

⁷ These include (i) ADB. 2002. *Technical Assistance for the Greater Silk Road Initiative*. Manila (TA 6053-REG, approved in October 2002 with ADB financing totaling \$950,000); and (ii) ADB. 2004. *Technical Assistance for the Greater Silk Road Initiative 2005*. Manila (TA 6199-REG, approved in November 2004 with ADB financing totaling \$900,000).

⁸ ADB. 2004. *Technical Assistance Completion Report on Regional Economic Cooperation in Central Asia (Phase II)*. Manila (Doc. IN.128-04); and ADB. 2004. *Technical Assistance Completion Report on Regional Economic Cooperation in Central Asia (Phase II–Year Two)*. Manila (Doc. IN.235-04).

⁹ ADB alone approved in 2004 four loan projects totaling \$88.1 million and nine TAs for \$4.95 million.

in Central Asia. This call points to the need for ADB to continue supporting the OIF of the CAREC.

10. ADB's TA for the OIF must however be designed and implemented taking into account lessons learned from previous TAs (para. 6) and following understanding reached at the most recent MCs and SOMs: (i) the OIF of the CAREC Program should continue to operate based on the principle of consensus among the participating countries and MIs, retaining its flexibility and at the same time its unique identity vis-à-vis other regional programs and institutions; (ii) to more effectively use resources and avoid duplication, further coordination/rationalization should be explored and carried out between the CAREC Program and other regional cooperation initiatives including the Central and South Asia Transport and Trade Forum (CSATTF)¹⁰ and other regional programs for Central Asia espoused by ADB's major multilateral and bilateral development partners; (iii) cooperation with key neighboring countries (e.g. the Russian Federation) is getting more and more important for the continuous success and further advance of the CAREC Program; (iv) more analytical works and tangible results are needed for enhancing confidence in and moving forward with regional cooperation in Central Asia; and (v) participation of the private sector in CAREC activities will infuse the Program with a new dimension and revived impetus.

III. THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A. Impact and Outcome

11. The TA is expected to contribute to economic growth and better living standards in the CAREC participating countries through regional economic cooperation. The outcome of the TA will be a strengthened OIF for further progress and tangible results of the CAREC Program. The outcome will be achieved through the following major outputs: (i) policy and strategic guidance provided by the MC and SOMs for further deepening and advancing the CAREC Program; (ii) program and analytical works on regional cooperation, including a comprehensive action plan (CAP) and performance indicators; (iii) engagement of the private sector with the CAREC program; and (iv) dissemination of knowledge and information on CAREC activities.

B. Methodology and Key Activities

12. The TA will focus on strengthening the OIF, which lies at the core of the CAREC Program, and on supporting related programming works and analytical studies that will help guide the general direction of the CAREC Program. On the other hand, as an umbrella TA for the CAREC Program, appropriate flexibility will be applied in implementation to cope with the evolving nature of CAREC and to respond to the changing demands of its participating countries. The following key activities that will generate the expected outputs will be funded by the TA.

13. **Facilitating and Enhancing Regional Dialogue.** ADB has proved to be well-positioned to initiate, facilitate, and enhance frank and constructive dialogues on regional cooperation among CAREC countries, because of its neutral status as a multilateral international organization focusing on economic development and poverty reduction, and because it serves as program Secretariat. Playing this role entails financial support for preparing and holding

¹⁰ CSATTF was established in 2003 at its first Ministerial Conference with a membership of Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan to strengthen transport and trade links through improved transit corridors of the subregion, which connect Central Asia and South Asia and the ports of the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf through Afghanistan.

meetings and conferences of the OIF of CAREC, and providing related secretariat services. The TA will prepare and support the holding of the 5TH MC in the last quarter of 2006, at least two SOMs prior to the 5TH MC, as well as a number of SCC meetings and other pertinent high-level forums under the OIF. The TA will also support coordination between the OIF and other initiatives for regional cooperation in Central Asia, to minimize duplication and secure synergy between different initiatives. In connection with the need to coordinate and assist with CAREC-related projects and to monitor other regional initiatives in the field, the TA will fund one domestic consultant/regional cooperation coordinator in each resident mission (RM) of ADB in CAREC participating countries.

14. Conducting Analytical Works and Results-Oriented Planning in Support of the OIF. As a regional cooperation platform that is gaining ground and recognition, the CAREC Program is bound to expand its activities, with possible broadening of its sector/subsector coverage. For that reason, more analytical works¹¹ will be conducted in support of the OIF, for it to make well-informed and realistic decisions based on a good grasp of the potential benefits, drawbacks, and risks involved in the issues and related options discussed. Comparative analysis of experience and lessons learned in similar areas from other initiatives for regional cooperation, either in Central Asia or elsewhere in the world, will also be useful for the OIF in its decision-making process. In addition, as reconfirmed by the 4TH MC in November 2005, it is time to set up key performance indicators for the CAREC Program, which should be embodied in a CAP. The TA will support analytical and planning works in these areas.

15. Promoting Private Sector Participation in the CAREC Program. A call for greater participation of the private sector in the CAREC Program was made by the CAREC SOM in April 2004 and in April 2005. The call envisaged two major thrusts: (i) launching and regular convening of the Regional Business Roundtable (RBR); and (ii) development and implementation of the strategy note for CAREC private sector development.

16. The major objectives of the RBR include (i) enhancing business inputs into CAREC by providing direct and regular channels for the private sector to communicate with the participating governments on broad issues in the priority areas of the CAREC Program, as well as on specific projects and initiatives; (ii) facilitating the development of soft and hard infrastructure for regional trade and investment; and (iii) building networks of the business community in the countries concerned to encourage cooperation and cofinancing in subregional projects and other related regional initiatives. An RBR preparatory meeting was convened in early November 2005, which officially launched the RBR that will be held annually starting from 2006.

17. The strategy note for CAREC private sector development aims at improving the policy, legal, and regulatory environment, as well as services in support of private sector development in the CAREC economies. The major approach envisaged includes enhancing the role of business associations and chambers of commerce in the participating countries. The approach entails developing a much greater range of activities to benefit members of the chambers and other related parties, and enhancing the role of the chambers in reflecting business perspectives in national policy making and in regional economic cooperation.

18. Enhancing Dissemination of Knowledge and Information on CAREC Activities. Over the years, the CAREC Program has generated a wealth of studies and knowledge on cross-country issues in Central Asia, particularly in the priority areas of transport, energy, trade

¹¹ Such as the study on the competitiveness of Central Asian states, and a multicountry general equilibrium model involving PRC, Mongolia, Russia, and Uzbekistan.

policy, and trade facilitation. Furthermore, day-to-day activities under the CAREC framework are bringing about new or additional knowledge and information. Wider and more systematic dissemination of knowledge and information on CAREC activities will help consolidate the OIF through reinforced trust in regional cooperation, better understanding of the role assumed and works undertaken by CAREC, and larger support from stakeholders. The TA will continue to support the revamped CAREC website, and the preparation and circulation of the quarterly regional newsletters in addition to *Central Asia Regional News Digest*. In light of the newly approved public communications policy of ADB,¹² the TA will support translation of selected key reports and studies or their summaries into Russian and Chinese. In consultation with the Department of External Relations and the RMs concerned, other means of communications will be explored as appropriate for enhancing external outreach and dissemination.

C. Cost and Financing

19. The TA is estimated to cost \$1.05 million equivalent. ADB will finance \$985,000 on a grant basis from ADB's TA funding program. The participating governments will provide the remaining \$65,000 equivalent, equal to the imputed value of staff time and use of government facilities conducting activities under the TA. Detailed cost estimates are given in Appendix 2.

D. Implementation Arrangements

20. The TA will be implemented over 15 months, from 1 January 2006 to 31 March 2007. ADB will be the Executing Agency. ADB's CAREC unit in the Operations Coordination Division will be responsible for overall implementation of TA activities in light of the guidance and specific requirements of the CAREC MCs and SOMs. To ensure effective implementation of the TA, there will be close coordination with the national focal point in each CAREC participating country, other MIs in the CAREC framework, SCCs, and ADB's RMs concerned.

21. For implementation of this TA, seven person-months of international consulting services will be engaged, on an intermittent basis, to assist with analytical works and results-oriented planning. In addition, 120 person-months of domestic consulting services will be required for coordination, country reporting, knowledge dissemination, and technical support for the CAREC Secretariat, including 12 person-months for one regional cooperation coordinator in each RM located in the CAREC participating countries. ADB will engage the consultants in accordance with its *Guidelines on the Use of Consultants* and other arrangements satisfactory to ADB for engaging domestic consultants. An outline of the terms of reference for consultants is in Appendix 3. The equipment budgeted under the TA consists of a strictly limited number of computers that will be procured in accordance with ADB's *Guidelines for Procurement* and will be left with the Executing Agency at the completion of the TA.

IV. THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION

22. The President, acting under the authority delegated by the Board, has approved the provision of technical assistance not exceeding the equivalent of \$985,000 on a grant basis for the Greater Silk Road Initiative 2006, and hereby reports this action to the Board.

¹² ADB. 2005. *The Public Communications Policy of the Asian Development Bank: Disclosure and Exchange of Information*. Manila (R101-05).

DESIGN AND MONITORING FRAMEWORK

Design Summary	Performance Targets/Indicators	Data Sources/Reporting Mechanisms	Assumptions and Risks
<p>Impact To contribute to economic growth and better living standards in the CAREC participating countries through regional economic cooperation</p>	<p>Progress in the four strategic objectives of the CAREC Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint ministerial statement • Progress reports to SOM and MC • <i>Asian Development Outlook (ADO)</i> and <i>World Development Indicators</i> online 	<p>Assumption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macroeconomic and political stability in the region <p>Risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recurrence of social turmoil and violence that may shift attention and priority in regional cooperation to geopolitics and security issues
<p>Outcome Strengthened OIF for further progress and tangible results of the CAREC Program</p>	<p>Progress in implementing the regional projects as planned in the lending and non-lending assistance pipelines in the RCSP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCSP Update • PPIS • Survey or feedback from stakeholders 	<p>Assumption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governments' continued strong commitment to regional economic cooperation <p>Risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major external shock to economy that would adversely affect regional cooperation • Lack of continued support to and ownership of CAREC Program • Inability of participating countries to reach consensus on key operations issues, resulting in fewer benefits and reduced interests in regional cooperation • Lack of coordination and cooperation of the MIs in the CAREC framework • Slower-than-expected processing of projects in the pipelines due to various reasons, including from ADB or from the participating countries concerned
<p>Outputs</p> <p>1. Policy and strategic guidance to be provided by the MC and SOMs for further deepening and advancing the CAREC Program</p> <p>2. Program and analytical works on regional cooperation, including CAP and performance indicators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country ownership of the CAREC Program • Clear, realistic, and implementable policy and guidance on future development of the CAREC Program, based on the principle of consensus • Performance indicators developed • CAP finalized • Other programs and analytical works as required by the MC and SOM completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting reports and joint ministerial statement • BTOR • PDP • Consultants and ADB reports 	<p>Assumption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governments' sustained enthusiasm and commitment to regional cooperation • Governments' national plan on regional cooperation • Willingness of Governments and development partners to share data and information with the consultants for preparation of analytical works • Congruence of Governments' readiness and the availability of MIs' resources to further

Design Summary	Performance Targets/Indicators	Data Sources/Reporting Mechanisms	Assumptions and Risks
<p>3. Engagement of the private sector with the CAREC Program</p> <p>4. Dissemination of knowledge and information on CAREC activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct and regular channels established for the private sector to communicate with the participating governments on broad issues in the priority areas of the CAREC Program, as well as on specific projects and initiatives • Networks of the business community built in the countries concerned to encourage cooperation and cofinancing in subregional projects and other related regional initiatives • Policy, legal, and regulatory environment as well as services improved for private sector development in the CAREC economies • Chambers of commerce and industry strengthened with greater role in reflecting business perspectives in national policy making and in regional economic cooperation • Greater development effectiveness through shared knowledge and information • Broader understanding of the works undertaken by CAREC and larger support of stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome of RBR • Survey or feedback from the business community on the strategy note for CAREC private sector development • Statistics of website traffic • Survey or feedback from users 	<p>deepen and broaden the CAREC Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willingness of the business community in the sector concerned to engage in the CAREC Program • Timely completion of works by consultants • Close coordination and team spirit in the CAREC team of ADB <p>Risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of stakeholder support • Inadequate data
<p>Activities with Milestones</p> <p>1.1 Holding of the 5TH MC at the last quarter of 2006</p> <p>1.2 Holding of at least two SOMs prior to the 5TH MC</p> <p>1.3 Holding of sector coordinating committee meetings prior to SOMs</p> <p>1.4 Regular secretariat support for the OIF, including preparation of meeting/conference-related documents, resource papers, and proceedings</p> <p>2.1 Formulation of CAREC performance indicators and completion of the CAP for CAREC by the 5TH MC</p> <p>2.2. Other programs and analytical works as required by the MC or SOM</p> <p>2.3. Consultations with the participating countries and other development partners</p> <p>3.1. Completion of the strategy note for CAREC private sector development and implementation of the strategy note throughout the TA period</p> <p>3.2. Convening of RBR in 2006</p>		<p>Inputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 person-months of international and 120 person-months of domestic consulting services • Support for conferences and meetings • ADB staff time • Translation • Publication 	

Design Summary	Performance Targets/Indicators	Data Sources/Reporting Mechanisms	Assumptions and Risks
<p>4.1 Posting of CAREC-related reports and studies on the CAREC website (as appropriate during the TA implementation period)</p> <p>4.2 Translation of selected key reports and studies or their summaries into Russian and Chinese (as appropriate during the TA implementation period)</p> <p>4.3 Quarterly newsletter published and widely distributed (quarterly during the TA implementation period)</p> <p>4.4 Regular coordination in the field with the governments/agencies of the participating countries and other development partners on implementation of the CAREC Program</p>			

ADB = Asian Development Bank, BTOR = back-to-office report, CAP = comprehensive action plan, CAREC = Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation, MC = ministerial conference, MI = multilateral institutions, OIF = overall institutional framework, PDP = performance development plan, PPIS = Project Processing Information System, RBR = regional business roundtable, RCSP = regional cooperation strategy and program, SOM = senior officials' meeting, TA = technical assistance

COST ESTIMATES AND FINANCING PLAN
(\$'000)

Item	Foreign Exchange	Local Currency	Total Cost
A. Asian Development Bank Financing^a			
1. Consultants			
a. Remuneration and Per Diem	338.0	0.0	338.0
i. International Consultants	158.0	0.0	158.0
ii. Domestic Consultants	180.0	0.0	180.0
b. International and Local Travel	38.0	0.0	38.0
c. Reports and Communications	10.0	0.0	10.0
2. Equipment	4.0	0.0	4.0
3. Conferences/Meetings ^b			
a. Ministerial Conference	121.0	0.0	121.0
b. Senior Officials' Meetings	195.0	0.0	195.0
c. Sectoral Coordinating Committee Meetings	97.0	0.0	97.0
d. Regional Business Roundtable	72.0	0.0	72.0
4. Surveys	5.0	0.0	5.0
5. Miscellaneous Administration and Support Costs			
a. Support Staff for Project Secretariat	8.0	0.0	8.0
b. Publications and Website	6.0	0.0	6.0
c. Translation of Selected Key Reports and Studies	30.0	0.0	30.0
d. Administrative Expenses ^c	6.0	0.0	6.0
6. Contingencies	55.0	0.0	55.0
Subtotal (A)	985.0	0.0	985.0
B. Government Financing^d			
1. Office Accommodation, Local Communication and Transport, and Other Support	0.0	35.0	35.0
2. Counterpart Staff	0.0	25.0	25.0
3. Others	0.0	5.0	5.0
Subtotal (B)	0.0	65.0	65.0
Total (A+B)	985.0	65.0	1,050.0

^a Financed by the Asian Development Bank's technical assistance funding program.

^b This includes, among others, airfare, hotel, and subsistence allowances of participants from the CAREC participating countries, as well as observers from ADB member countries, such as India, Pakistan, and Turkmenistan.

^c Includes office supplies, communications, translations, and other miscellaneous expenses.

^d Imputed value of staff time, use of governmental facilities, and other contribution in kind.

Source: Asian Development Bank estimates.

OUTLINE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANTS

1. A total of 7 person-months international and 120 person-months domestic consulting services will be required for the proposed technical assistance (TA). Given that the TA will support a range of activities of the Greater Silk Road Initiative under the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program, some of which are still being planned, detailed terms of reference for specific tasks may be revised and supplemented at a later stage as appropriate.

1. Advisor/Regional Cooperation Specialist/Economist (international, 7 person-months)

2. Independent individual consultant(s) will be engaged on an intermittent basis, to do the following:

- (i) Perform analytical studies of regional cooperation in relation to further strengthening of the overall institutional framework (OIF) and to strategic direction and possible deepening and broadening of the CAREC Program, including coordination and cooperation with other regional cooperation initiatives and multilateral or bilateral aid agencies.
- (ii) Complete and help implement for the CAREC Program a comprehensive action plan (CAP) that embodies key performance indicators.
- (iii) Perform other analytical studies as required particularly in the priority areas of transport, energy, trade policy, and trade facilitation.
- (iv) Advise on and assist in promoting participation of the private sector and business communities in the CAREC Program, including implementing the strategy note on CAREC private sector development and instituting a regional business roundtable.
- (v) Assist the head of the CAREC Unit in planning, preparing for, and implementing conferences and meetings for the initiative, including the preparation of resource papers.
- (vi) Oversee improvements to the CAREC website and regional newsletter, and provide necessary input.
- (vii) Help coordinate, integrate, and monitor the various TA activities.
- (viii) Provide other technical and coordinating support to the OIF of the CAREC Program, as required.

2. Development Economist (domestic, 12 person-months)

3. The development economist will do the following:

- (i) Assist the secretariat to the OIF.
- (ii) Assist in organizing ministerial conferences, senior officials' meetings, and other meetings and workshops; prepare resource papers for these meetings; and perform other follow-up activities.
- (iii) Prepare quarterly monitoring reports on TA implementation, which covers the status of proposed activities under the TA and related activities, and outstanding issues and slippages for the attention of the head of the CAREC Unit.
- (iv) Create, maintain, and upgrade a database for analysis and measurement of results and outcomes of the CAREC Program, which covers (a) implementation status and updating of the CAREC regional assistance pipeline, (b) activities of various regional initiatives, (c) participation of the private sector and business

community in the CAREC Program, and (d) publications and analytical studies on regional cooperation.

- (v) Help prepare project profiles for regional projects.
- (vi) Help implement the TA, including (a) monitoring budget disbursements, consultant recruitment, and contract variations; and (b) procuring other inputs.

3. In-Country Regional Cooperation Coordinators (domestic, 96 person-months)

4. One domestic consultant in each participating country will be engaged for 12 months to serve as field coordinator, with the following primary responsibilities:

- (i) Serve as focal point on regional economic cooperation in the developing member countries (DMC) concerned, coordinating CAREC-related issues with national and sector focal points in the Government, other Government bodies involved in regional cooperation activities, representatives of multilateral institution and other aid agencies in the field, business communities and other stakeholders, as well as the Asian Development Bank (ADB)'s CAREC Unit.
- (ii) Establish and maintain, through regular, day-to-day contact and consultation, long-term working relationships with key government agencies responsible for regional economic cooperation.
- (iii) Ensure implementation of the regional work program in the country.
- (iv) Undertake or provide inputs to CAREC-related economic research, sector/strategy/thematic studies, and other analytical work, including assistance in completing the CAP and monitoring its implementation.
- (v) Monitor regional projects being implemented by ADB in the country, and assist in implementing them, if necessary.
- (vi) Assist in the logistics and other arrangements for meetings and conferences under the OIF, which include sectoral coordinating committee meetings, senior officials' meetings, and the ministerial conference.
- (vii) Prepare regular reports on regional cooperation initiatives and activities in the country, and provide inputs to the *Central Asia Regional News Digest*, the quarterly CAREC newsletter, and the website.
- (viii) Monitor programs and initiatives of the Government and regional organizations on regional economic cooperation; identify, evaluate, and recommend potential areas for ADB assistance.
- (ix) Monitor programs of other stakeholders, especially of external funding agencies operating in the country; identify, evaluate, and recommend potential areas of cooperation.
- (x) Participate in relevant ADB missions and conferences/meetings.
- (xi) Help identify and develop potential new areas of the initiative.
- (xii) Report on all activities monthly.
- (xiii) Perform other regional cooperation and ADB-related tasks as assigned by the country director or head of the CAREC Unit.

4. Experts on Website, Media, and Publication (domestic, 12 person-months)

5. Domestic consulting services will be engaged to (i) further improve the CAREC website of both content and presentation; (ii) support publication of a quarterly regional newsletter; (iii) prepare publications and reports related to high-profile CAREC meetings and events; (iv) prepare a summary of selected key reports and studies of CAREC for translation into Russian

and Chinese; and (v) help arrange for media coverage of high-profile CAREC meetings, projects, and activities, as required.