



# Regional Technical Assistance Report

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Project Number: 42148  
October 2008

## Assessing the Socioeconomic Effects of the Greater Mekong Subregion Projects

Asian Development Bank

## ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
GMS	–	Greater Mekong Subregion
GMS-SF	–	Greater Mekong Subregion Strategic Framework 2002–2012
Lao PDR	–	Lao People’s Democratic Republic
NRI	–	national research institute
NGO	–	nongovernment organization
OED	–	Operations Evaluation Department
PRC	–	People’s Republic of China
RETA	–	regional technical assistance
RRP	–	report and recommendation of the President
TA	–	technical assistance

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CLASSIFICATION

<b>Targeting Classification</b>	–	General intervention
<b>Sector</b>	–	Law, economic management, and public policy
<b>Subsector</b>	–	Economic management
<b>Themes</b>	–	Sustainable economic growth, inclusive social development, regional cooperation
<b>Subthemes</b>	–	Fostering physical infrastructure development, human development, trade and investments

## NOTE

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

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) consists of Cambodia, People's Republic of China (PRC), Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam. In 1992, with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the GMS countries launched the GMS Economic Cooperation Program (the Program) to strengthen economic linkages among them. The initial emphasis of cooperation was on building trust and confidence through specific projects and programs to promote physical connectivity among the member countries. In 2002, the countries adopted the GMS Strategic Framework 2002–2012 (GMS-SF), which outlined a more comprehensive subregional development agenda, underscoring the need to supplement infrastructure linkages with cooperation on policies and programs to promote equitable and environmentally sustainable growth.<sup>1</sup>

2. The midterm review of the GMS-SF, endorsed by the member countries in 2007, noted that although the Program had accelerated and made significant progress in pursuing its strategic priorities during the first half of the GMS-SF period, the precise scale and scope of the Program's contribution to poverty reduction and other social indicators could not be determined because of a lack of information and methodological difficulties. It recommended establishing a system for monitoring and quantifying the poverty impact of GMS projects and programs.<sup>2</sup>

3. The proposed regional technical assistance (RETA) aims to help fill this gap by (i) evaluating the socioeconomic effects of selected GMS projects that are ongoing or have been completed, with a view to providing quantitative estimates where feasible; (ii) constructing data sets with more comprehensive socioeconomic indicators to aid enhanced monitoring and evaluation of outcomes and impacts in subsequent years; and (iii) drawing key policy implications and lessons that could inform the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of subregional projects in the GMS.<sup>3</sup> The design and monitoring framework is in Appendix 1.

## II. ISSUES

4. Cooperation among the GMS countries has intensified in recent years. By the end of 2007, the Program had mobilized \$10.1 billion in investment projects and \$176.5 million in technical assistance (TA), of which ADB's support amounted to \$3.6 billion for investments and \$83.4 million for TA. More than two thirds of the funds for investment projects and 59% of TA were mobilized in the 2002–2007 period, when the GMS-SF came into effect. The indicative pipeline for 2009–2011 suggests that support for the Program is likely to increase further, with \$3.1 billion in investment projects and \$22.2 million in TA envisaged for the period.

5. The GMS countries have identified nine priority sectors for cooperation under the Program—transport, telecommunications, energy, environment, tourism, trade facilitation, investment, human resource development, and agriculture. Most of the funds for investment projects under the Program have so far gone primarily to transport and, to a lesser extent, energy, reflecting the necessity, in the first instance, of physical connectivity among member

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<sup>1</sup> The thrusts of the GMS-SF are to (i) strengthen infrastructure linkages; (ii) facilitate cross-border trade, investment, and tourism; (iii) enhance private sector participation and competitiveness; (iv) develop human resources and skills; and (v) protect the environment and promote sustainable use of shared natural resources.

<sup>2</sup> ADB. 2007. *Mid-Term Review of the Greater Mekong Subregion Strategic Framework (2002–2012)*. Manila (pages 14, 38, and 40). For simplicity, the term "project", as used in this paper, encompasses both projects and programs.

<sup>3</sup> The TA first appeared in the business opportunities section of ADB's website on 25 June 2008. It was originally titled Enhanced Monitoring and Evaluation of GMS Projects.

countries. However, in recent years, as physical connectivity improved and the scope for cooperation broadened, investment projects are gradually becoming more diverse.<sup>4</sup> TA has historically encompassed a more diverse scope, including health, environment, tourism, capacity development, trade facilitation, and support for GMS institutional arrangements, among others. While some transport, energy, and a number of TA projects have been completed, the majority of projects under the Program are ongoing.

6. The status of the Program underscores the importance of better understanding its projects' effects on the ground, especially as the scope and scale of its activities increase. There have been few assessments of the socioeconomic effects of GMS projects.<sup>5</sup> An ADB RETA (Reviewing the Impact of Regional Economic Integration in the Greater Mekong Subregion)<sup>6</sup> assessed the effects of regional integration at cross-border points along the East–West Economic Corridor and the Southern Economic Corridor in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The responses of households surveyed varied by country, but respondents generally perceived significant benefits from cross-border linkages, including easier access to markets as well as medical and other services, greater opportunities for trade and employment, and availability of cheaper goods.<sup>7</sup> Among the key negative outcomes cited by households were the spread of HIV, smuggling of goods, human trafficking, and difficulties in coping with greater competition in labor and product markets.<sup>8</sup>

7. ADB's Operations Evaluation Department (OED) is conducting an evaluation of ADB's regional cooperation assistance program for the GMS this year. The objectives of OED's evaluation are to (i) assess the achievement and distribution of the overall results of the Program; (ii) assess the extent to which the regional programs at the sector level have shown results; (iii) review how the clarity of ADB's strategic guidance, policies, procedures, and instruments have contributed to or impeded implementation of the Program; and (iv) identify lessons and provide input to the future direction of the Program.<sup>9</sup>

8. This RETA will ensure complementarity with OED's evaluation by (i) focusing on households and firms to assess socioeconomic impacts at the micro level, and (ii) constructing data sets with more comprehensive socioeconomic indicators to aid enhanced monitoring and evaluation of outcomes and impacts in future years. It would also supplement the work done by OED and others by focusing on projects that have not yet been comprehensively assessed.

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<sup>4</sup> The share of transport projects in the total cost declined from 91% in 1992–2001 to 78% in 2002–2007, while that for energy increased from 9% to 21% during the period. Two projects for controlling communicable diseases and developing sustainable tourism were also initiated since 2002. Source: GMS Secretariat database.

<sup>5</sup> These and other related studies have been reviewed in ADB. 2007. *Midterm Review of the Greater Mekong Subregion Strategic Framework (2002–2012)*. Manila (pages 14–17); ADB. 2008. *Regional Cooperation Assistance Program for the Greater Mekong Subregion—Evaluation Approach Paper*. Manila (Appendix 7, pages 33–36); and ADB. 2008. *Regional Projects within ADF: Impacts and Funding Issues*. Paper presented for the *Asian Development Fund X Donors' Meeting*. 13–14 March. Manila. Previous studies have mostly focused on the East–West Economic Corridor and the Southern Economic Corridor, reflecting their relatively advanced stage.

<sup>6</sup> ADB. 2004. *Technical Assistance for Reviewing the Poverty Impact of Regional Economic Integration in the Greater Mekong Subregion*. Manila. The objective of the RETA was to assess the effects of regional economic integration generally, not to assess the effects of specific projects.

<sup>7</sup> ADB. 2006. *Reviewing the Poverty Impact of Regional Economic Integration in the Greater Mekong Subregion: Regional Synthesis Report* (draft, chapter 9).

<sup>8</sup> A number of initiatives are ongoing to mitigate some of these negative outcomes. See, for example, ADB. 2004. *Technical Assistance for Preventing the Trafficking of Women and Children and Promoting Safe Migration in the Greater Mekong Subregion*. Manila; and ADB. 2002. *Technical Assistance for ICT and HIV/AIDS Preventive Education in the Cross-Border Areas of the Greater Mekong Subregion*. Manila.

<sup>9</sup> ADB. 2008. *Regional Cooperation Assistance Program for the Greater Mekong Subregion—Evaluation Approach Paper*. Manila (page 5, para. 10).

9. This RETA thus intends to augment the existing body of knowledge and contribute to a better understanding of the impacts of GMS projects. The assessment of socioeconomic effects would provide important inputs to the Program's focus on results, and potentially improve the prioritization and selection of subregional projects and initiatives. The work is expected to provide analytic structures that can be incorporated into future projects to better monitor and understand the impact of regional cooperation activities in GMS. An improved understanding of the effects of GMS projects would be important, considering ADB's scaling up of assistance to subregional projects as envisaged under its long-term strategic framework 2008–2020 (Strategy 2020), and the new regional cooperation partnership strategy for the GMS.<sup>10</sup>

### III. THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

#### A. Impact and Outcome

10. The expected outcome of the RETA is a better understanding of the socioeconomic effects of selected GMS projects. This is anticipated to contribute to enhanced development effectiveness of interventions by ADB and other development partners under the Program. A draft outline of the final report is in Appendix 2.

#### B. Methodology and Key Activities

11. The RETA is expected to focus on ADB-assisted projects on transport and trade facilitation, health, energy, and tourism, which comprise most of the assistance to the Program so far. The assessment of socioeconomic effects will generally follow a mixed-method approach. Qualitative analysis (desk review, key informant interviews, focus group discussions) will help in understanding the context of the project, identifying the determinants of outcomes and impact, and describing causal chains for outcomes and impact, which could then be included in the quantitative assessments.<sup>11</sup> These assessments will draw on household and enterprise surveys to be conducted as part of the RETA, as well as baselines reconstructed from secondary sources. The surveys will collect data on various relevant indicators, including those on outcomes and impacts and their potential determinants, for groups affected by the projects (project groups) and comparison groups. The surveys can be replicated in subsequent years to track outcomes and impact and, as such, their design will emphasize simplicity to facilitate follow-up work.

12. The RETA will be implemented in two stages.

- (i) **Stage I: Diagnostic stage.** In the first stage, diagnostic assessments will be carried out to select specific projects for detailed work under the RETA. The criteria for selection would include (a) the implementation stage of the project; (b) size, sector, and country coverage of the project; (c) the potential of the RETA to inform the design and implementation of similar projects in the future; (d) existing knowledge about the project's effects and the potential contribution of the RETA to filling any gaps; and (e) an assessment of existing data and information on the projects from project databases, official censuses, and surveys, among others, to determine the work to be carried out under the RETA

<sup>10</sup> ADB. 2008. *Strategy 2020: The Long-Term Strategic Framework of the Asian Development Bank 2008–2020*. Manila (page 23).

<sup>11</sup> The context of the project includes the spatial as well as sectoral and broader policy and institutional environment that could affect outcomes and impacts.

and the likely rigor with which socioeconomic effects of projects could be estimated. Following the diagnostic assessment and selection of specific projects, an inception report will be prepared describing the scope, objectives, analytical frameworks for qualitative and quantitative assessments of the selected projects, and implementation details. The inception report will be finalized following national consultation workshops and a regional workshop with participation of key stakeholders.

- (ii) **Stage II: Data collection, analysis, and reporting.** The second stage will comprise collection of data and information for qualitative and quantitative assessments of selected projects, analysis of their socioeconomic effects, and finalization of country reports and an integrated regional report. The findings of the assessments will be discussed in consultation workshops in each country and in regional workshops before the finalization of reports. The final country and regional reports will be translated into national languages for dissemination.

13. The expected outputs of the RETA are as follows:

- (i) Country reports and an integrated regional report including assessments of the socioeconomic effects of the selected projects to provide lessons that could be incorporated into the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of relevant GMS projects.
- (ii) A database of outcome and impact indicators and their potential determinants for selected GMS projects. The database will consist of information from the surveys conducted under the RETA and from secondary sources, including official surveys, project documents and databases, development partners, nongovernment organizations (NGOs), research institutions, and others.

14. A number of methodological issues arise in the quantitative assessment of the projects' socioeconomic effects. The attribution of effects to specific projects will require adequate controls for relevant characteristics of project and comparison groups that may determine outcomes and impact of selected projects—apart from their participation in, or proximity to, to the project. Some of these characteristics are observable in the data and could be included in the analytical frameworks. Others may be unobservable in the data. In these cases, the rigor of the assessments will partly depend on the availability of adequate secondary data to reconstruct baselines for selected projects. For subregional projects, the measurement of subregional benefits and costs over and above national ones present another challenge. These risks will be mitigated by paying attention to identification of suitable comparison groups, and by supplementing the quantitative findings from the assessments with qualitative assessments and with findings from other similar studies as appropriate.<sup>12</sup>

### C. Cost and Financing

15. The total cost of the RETA, estimated at \$950,000, will be financed on a grant basis by ADB's TA funding program. The proceeds will cover consultants' services, surveys, and other

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<sup>12</sup> See Bamberger, Michael, Jim Rugh, and Linda Mabry. 2006. *Real World Evaluation: Working Under Budget, Time, Data, and Political Constraints*. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications (pages 202–229); and Baker, Judy L. 2000. *Evaluating the Impact of Development Projects on Poverty: A Handbook for Practitioners*. Washington, DC: World Bank (chapter 1).

fieldwork, workshops, printing, and administrative costs. The breakdown of costs is in Appendix 3.

#### **D. Implementation Arrangements**

16. ADB will be the Executing Agency for the RETA. ADB's Southeast Asia Department will implement the RETA in close consultation with GMS national coordinators and other relevant officials in each country, and in cooperation with national statistics offices. The RETA is expected to be implemented over a period of 21 months starting in October 2008. No-objection letters will be obtained from all countries where RETA activities will be conducted before commencing the activities.

17. The RETA will be implemented in partnership with national research institutes (NRIs) in each country, and will require the services of international and national consultants. The consultants will be engaged by ADB in accordance with its *Guidelines on the Use of Consultants* (2007, as amended from time to time). The NRIs will be selected by ADB, in consultation with GMS national coordinators, based on the consultants' qualifications selection criteria. They will be engaged under lump-sum contracts to perform the tasks indicated in their terms of reference, including diagnostic assessments to select projects, developing analytical frameworks, designing and implementing data collection instruments in cooperation with national statistics offices, constructing databases, assessing selected projects, and organizing and facilitating workshops.

18. The RETA will also require services of international consultants, on an individual basis, for an estimated 12 person-months. The international consultants will consist of (i) a team leader and coordinator who will, among other tasks, collaborate with the NRIs to select projects for detailed assessment under the RETA; ensure consistency of analytical frameworks; ensure consistency and quality of data, methodological approaches, and reports across countries; prepare the integrated regional report; and facilitate regional workshops; and (ii) economists/specialists, to be engaged as needed, with expertise in various areas relevant for assessment of selected projects. In addition, the RETA will engage a national consultant/analyst on an individual basis for 9 person-months to assist the TA supervising unit officer in coordinating the RETA activities. The outline terms of reference are in Appendix 4.

19. The NRIs will organize national consultation workshops at the inception, interim, and final stages in order to elicit feedback from diverse stakeholders. At each stage, national consultation workshops will be followed by regional workshops to accommodate subregional perspectives and to coordinate approaches across countries. The findings of the RETA will also be presented at relevant meetings of the GMS sector working groups and at the GMS Senior Officials' Meeting as appropriate. The reports and the databases are expected to be made public on the GMS Secretariat's website.

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

20. The President, acting under the authority delegated by the Board, has approved the provision of technical assistance not exceeding the equivalent of \$950,000 on a grant basis for Assessing the Socioeconomic Effects of the Greater Mekong Subregion Projects, and hereby reports this action to the Board.

## DESIGN AND MONITORING FRAMEWORK

Design Summary	Performance Targets and/or Indicators	Data Sources and/or Reporting Mechanisms	Assumptions and Risks
<p><b>Impact</b></p> <p>Development effectiveness of GMS projects in relevant sectors will be enhanced</p>	<p>Reference to RETA results in the design and implementation of at least 50% of GMS projects in the relevant sectors within 5 years after RETA completion</p> <p>Use of indicators developed under the RETA for monitoring and evaluation of at least 50% of relevant GMS projects within 5 years after RETA completion</p> <p>Assessments of GMS projects in relevant sectors and their contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals</p>	<p>RRPs, TA reports, project performance reports</p> <p>Project performance reports, project completion reports, project performance evaluation reports</p> <p>Final review of the GMS Strategic Framework 2002–2012</p>	<p><b>Assumptions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholders continue to be committed to enhancing the development effectiveness of GMS Economic Cooperation Program</li> <li>Results of the RETA are incorporated into the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of relevant projects by ADB and the executing agencies</li> </ul> <p><b>Risk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>External shocks beyond the countries' control may slow the progress of the GMS Economic Cooperation Program</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcome</b></p> <p>The socioeconomic costs and benefits of selected GMS projects are better understood</p>	<p>Feedback from participants in the national and regional consultation workshops to be conducted under the RETA</p>	<p>Proceedings from the workshops</p>	<p><b>Assumption</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active participation by key stakeholders in reviewing and providing comments on RETA reports in consultation workshops</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <p>1. Reports including assessments of the outcomes/impacts of the selected GMS projects, and lessons from the assessment that could be incorporated into the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of GMS projects in the relevant sectors.</p>	<p>Final country reports and integrated regional report from the RETA to be completed by Q2 2010</p>	<p>TA performance report</p> <p>Project information document</p> <p>Back-to-office reports from TA review missions</p>	<p><b>Assumption</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timely feedback by key stakeholders on RETA reports</li> </ul> <p><b>Risk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data and information from secondary sources are inadequate to reconstruct baseline indicators</li> </ul>

Design Summary	Performance Targets and/or Indicators	Data Sources and/or Reporting Mechanisms	Assumptions and Risks
2. A database of outcome and impact indicators and their potential determinants for selected projects.	A comprehensive database with relevant indicators for the selected projects to be completed by Q4 2009	TA performance report  Project information document  Back-to-office reports from TA review missions  Documentation of the database constructed under the RETA	
<b>Activities with Milestones</b>  1.1 Desk reviews of state of knowledge relevant to impact assessment of GMS projects (Q4 2008) 1.2 Selection of projects for assessment under the RETA (Q4 2008) 1.3 Development of analytical frameworks and methodology for qualitative and quantitative impact assessment of selected projects (Q1 2009) 1.4 Draft inception report refining the scope and methodology of the RETA (Q1 2009) 1.5 National consultation workshops and regional inception workshop. Finalization of the inception report (Q1 2009). 1.6 Qualitative assessment of selected projects (Q2 2009) 1.7 Interim workshops and final reports based on qualitative analyses (Q2/Q3 2009) 1.8 Draft reports based on quantitative assessments, with lessons and recommendations (Q1/Q2 2010) 1.9 Finalization workshops and final reports (Q2 2010)  2.1 Desk reviews of state of knowledge relevant to impact assessment of GMS projects (Q4 2008) 2.2 Selection of projects for assessment under the RETA. Build a database for each selected project on relevant indicators for the periods spanning the project cycle up to the present. The information would be based on secondary sources, including (a) official information from censuses, household surveys, and enterprise surveys; (b) information from project documents and databases; and (c) other sources including development partners, NGOs, and research institutes (Q4 2008). 2.3 Household surveys of project groups and comparison groups at selected sites (Q4 2009) 2.4 Enterprise surveys of project groups and a comparison group at selected sites (Q4 2009) 2.5 Consolidated database with indicators for selected projects. Documentation of the database (Q4 2009)			<b>Inputs</b>  ADB: \$950,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National research institutes and individual consulting services: 21 person-months (12 person-months international and 9 person-months national): \$555,000</li> <li>• Surveys: \$125,000</li> <li>• Workshops: \$150,000</li> <li>• Miscellaneous administration and support costs: \$25,000</li> <li>• Contingencies: \$95,000</li> </ul>

ADB = Asian Development Bank, GMS = Greater Mekong Subregion, NGO = nongovernment organization, Q = quarter, RRP = report and recommendation of the President, RETA = regional technical assistance, TA = technical assistance.

## **DRAFT OUTLINE OF THE FINAL REGIONAL REPORT**

- A. Introduction
  - 1. Objectives
  - 2. Scope
  - 3. Institutional Arrangements
- B. Selection of Projects
  - 1. Literature Review
  - 2. Assessment of Secondary Data (e.g., available indicators, their relevance, periodicity, coverage, and quality)
  - 3. Selection of Projects—Rationale
  - 4. Context and Profiles of Selected Projects
- C. Analytical Framework (by project)
  - 1. Identification of Outcome/Impact Indicators and Their Determinants
  - 2. Hypotheses About Their Relationships
  - 3. Estimation Methods
- D. Data and Analysis (by project and by country)
  - 1. Qualitative and Quantitative Data Collection Methods (e.g., sampling strategy, identification of sites, and questionnaire design)
  - 2. Descriptive Statistics
  - 3. Estimated Results
  - 4. Validity Checks
- E. Conclusions and Recommendations
  - 1. Magnitude and Distribution of Socioeconomic Benefits and Costs of Selected Greater Mekong Subregion Projects Within and Across Countries
  - 2. Implications for Greater Mekong Subregion Economic Cooperation Program (e.g., how to enhance ownership and commitment, complementarity among subregional and national public goods, and capacity)
  - 3. Recommendations

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

<b>Item</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
<b>Asian Development Bank Financing<sup>a</sup></b>	
1. Consultants	
a. Remuneration and Per Diem	
i. National Research Institutes <sup>b</sup>	240.0
ii. International Consultants	198.5
iii. National Consultants	24.5
b. International and Local Travel	92.0
2. Workshops	150.0
3. Surveys	125.0
4. Miscellaneous Administration and Support Costs	25.0
5. Contingencies	95.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>950.0</b>

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

<sup>b</sup> To be engaged under a lump-sum contract to provide services indicated in their terms of reference.

Source: Asian Development Bank estimates.

## OUTLINE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANTS

### A. National Research Institutes

1. In each country, a national research institute (NRI) will be engaged for diagnostics of potential projects for selection, development of analytical frameworks, design and implementation of data collection instruments in cooperation with national statistics offices, construction of databases, assessments, and organization and participation in workshops.

2. **Stage I: Diagnostic Stage.** The main tasks of the NRIs in stage I will include:

- (i) reviewing relevant documents related to Asian Development Bank (ADB)-assisted projects in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), including evaluation studies of ADB-assisted GMS projects;
- (ii) assessing key secondary sources of data, such as censuses, household and enterprise surveys, and project databases for their sample coverage, indicators, periodicity, and other relevant characteristics;
- (iii) selecting projects for detailed assessment under the regional technical assistance (RETA);
- (iv) determining the data that could be used to reconstruct baselines for selected projects as necessary;
- (v) identifying preliminary sites for surveys, of project and comparison groups covering projects selected from (i) above;
- (vi) reviewing good practices for evaluation of subregional projects and developing appropriate methodologies for evaluating the outcome/impact of selected projects, as well as better monitoring and evaluation of selected upcoming projects (The methodology would take into account available data as well as surveys and other work to be carried out under the RETA. It should address relevant issues such as quantification and attribution of benefits and costs; their distribution across and within countries; and steps (e.g., triangulation) needed to check the validity of estimates.);
- (vii) preparing the country components of the inception report, outlining the analytical frameworks for selected projects, including the proposed approach, methodology, work plan and schedule, and detailed terms of reference for team members;
- (viii) arranging and conducting a national consultation workshop with the participation of relevant stakeholders to initiate the RETA; and
- (ix) assisting with organization of the regional inception workshop.

3. **Stage II: Data Collection, Analysis, and Reporting.** The main tasks of the NRIs in stage II will include:

- (i) designing and implementing data collection instruments in cooperation with national statistics offices as appropriate,
- (ii) creating databases with primary and secondary information,
- (iii) preparing country studies relevant to each selected project in accordance with the framework outlined in the inception report,
- (iv) arranging and conducting national consultation workshops with the participation of relevant stakeholders to discuss interim and final results,
- (v) participating as resource persons in regional interim and final workshops,
- (vi) incorporating feedback from workshops into the final country reports, and
- (vii) translating the final country reports and the integrated regional report from English into the national language.

**B. Team Leader/Coordinator** (international, 6 person-months, intermittent)

4. The team leader/coordinator will be an economist with expertise in evaluation methodology, field research, and with experience in the GMS. The team leader will manage and coordinate the overall technical aspects of the project and project deliverables in collaboration with NRIs and other members of the project team.

5. **Stage I: Diagnostic Stage.** The main tasks of the team leader in stage I will include:

- (i) collaborating with the NRIs in the scoping of the RETA in stage I, including (a) reviewing the existing stock of knowledge relevant to ADB-assisted GMS projects, (b) assessing secondary sources of data, (c) selecting projects, (d) developing analytical frameworks, and (e) designing databases of relevant secondary data for selected projects;
- (ii) preparing an inception report outlining the analytical frameworks for selected projects, including the proposed approach, methodology, work plan and schedule, and detailed terms of reference for team members; and
- (iii) organizing and facilitating the regional inception workshop.

6. **Stage II: Data Collection, Analysis, and Reporting.** The main tasks of the team leader in stage II will include:

- (i) providing inputs to implementation of surveys and other fieldwork;
- (ii) reviewing and providing feedback to country-level analyses, ensuring consistency and quality of reports and editing them as necessary;
- (iii) preparing and finalizing an integrated regional report; and
- (iv) organizing and facilitating the regional interim and final workshops.

**C. Economists/Specialists** (international, 6 person-months, intermittent)

7. The economists/specialists will be experts in specific topics relevant to the selected projects. Experience in GMS countries is highly desirable. The experts will:

- (i) advise, review, and comment on the analytical frameworks, methodology, country and regional reports produced under the RETA as required;
- (ii) prepare studies on specific issues within their areas of expertise related to selected projects as necessary; and
- (iii) act as resource persons in regional workshops as appropriate.

**D. Analyst** (national, 9 person-months, intermittent)

8. The analyst will assist the ADB project officer with overall implementation of RETA activities. The main tasks of the analyst will include:

- (i) coordinating RETA activities to ensure timely implementation of the RETA;
- (ii) assisting with organization of regional workshops;
- (iii) providing research and analytical support to the project officer relevant to the RETA;
- (iv) ensuring that the database(s) to be created as part of the RETA are complete, well-documented, and consistent;
- (v) liaising with the GMS Secretariat for uploading of the database on the internet; and
- (vi) other tasks related to RETA implementation as required.