

Technical Assistance

TAR: OTH 37547

# Technical Assistance for South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Information and Communication Technology Development Master Plan

February 2005

Asian Development Bank

## ABBREVIATIONS

|       |   |   |
|-------|---|---|
| ADB   | – | Asian Development Bank                      |
| ICT   | – | Information and communication technology    |
| SASEC | – | South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation |
| TA    | – | technical assistance                        |

## TA CLASSIFICATION

|                               |   |  |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Poverty Classification</b> | – | <b>Other</b>   |
| <b>Sector</b>                 | – | Transport and communication                          |
| <b>Subsector</b>              | – | Telecommunication and communication                  |
| <b>Themes</b>                 | – | Regional cooperation and sustainable economic growth |

Following the Board approval of the R-paper, *Review of ADB's Poverty Reduction Strategy*, staff instructions to replace the PI/CPI classification with a new tracking system are under preparation, in line with para. 83 of the R-paper.

## NOTE

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

This report was prepared by D.S. Pyo.

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) information and communication technology (ICT) working group was established by the agreement of country advisors to regional technical assistance (TA) 5936: Identification and Prioritization of Subregional Projects in South Asia, which was held on 21 – 22 October 2002. The ICT working group was mandated to (i) strengthen institutional cooperation among relevant agencies, including private sector representatives, for future collaborative undertakings in ICT in the subregion; (ii) discuss and agree on broad mechanisms for institutional coordination and consultation processes for project implementation; and (iii) collectively agree on the steps to facilitate cooperation in ICT in the subregion.

2. The first meeting of the ICT working group was held in New Delhi, India, on 15 – 16 March 2004. Its objectives are to develop a cooperation agenda, discuss major issues and activities for ICT development in the SASEC region, and identify priority areas for the SASEC ICT development master plan that would be developed by TA from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The working group reached an understanding with the member countries<sup>1</sup> and ADB representatives on the objectives, scope, cost estimates, financing plan, implementation arrangements, and terms of reference for the TA. This TA paper was prepared on the basis of the outcomes reached at the ICT working group meeting, and its review of data, studies, and reports.<sup>2</sup> The TA is included in the draft Regional Cooperation Strategy and Program, 2004–2007, South Asia. The TA framework is in Appendix 1.

## II. ISSUES

3. The potential of ICT in developing countries is relatively large, extending to making remote and rural areas reachable, overcoming geographical barriers to provide social services such as education and health, and thus creating more economic and social opportunities for the poor living in remote areas. SASEC countries, however, lag far behind in preparing themselves to make full use of ICT for their economic and social development as demonstrated by unfavorable ICT penetration ratios. The density of main telephone lines ranges from 0.6 to 4.6 per 100 inhabitants in SASEC countries compared with more than 50 in East Asia countries and around 13.6 for all Asian countries. The density of cellular mobiles phones ranges from 0.2 to 2.5 per 100 inhabitants compared with more than 70 in East Asia countries and around 15.0 for all Asian countries. Internet users in SASEC countries range from 18 to 204 per 10,000 inhabitants compared with almost 5,000 in East Asia countries and around 690 for all Asian countries.

4. To improve their low teledensities, SASEC countries are in the process of developing their ICT infrastructure at an unprecedented speed. In Bangladesh, mobile phones have overtaken fixed line phones, and will have its own undersea link by the Southeast Asia-Middle East-Western Europe 4 project by 2005 to overcome the limitation of satellite technology for data communication. Bhutan will soon have undersea links connecting with India and extending to Thimphu. Nepal is establishing an East–West superhighway that will link up with Kathmandu and connect with the Indian terrestrial networks in the south. India has seen a dramatic improvement in telecom infrastructure due largely to deregulation and the participation of the private sector. India has also experienced significant growth in software exports.

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<sup>1</sup> Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and India.

<sup>2</sup> The TA first appeared in the *ADB Business Opportunities* on 16 October 2004.

5. These country-level efforts to build ICT infrastructure can be made more effectively if well-coordinated on a regional level, as SASEC countries have advantages in terms of geographical proximity, common sociocultural characteristics, and economic complementarities for maximizing the benefits from regional cooperation in ICT. Regional cooperation in ICT not only facilitates greater private sector initiative and ensures a healthy regulatory framework, but also promotes efficient ICT network traffic flows and exploits more ICT business opportunities in the region. In addition, regional cooperation in ICT can combine resources, lead to shared gateways and exchange of experiences in ICT development plans or policies, and promote increased traffic to flow to and from the region.

6. Recognizing the importance of ICT for economic and social development and the potential benefits from regional cooperation, ADB provided TA<sup>3</sup> and held the Regional Roundtable on ICT in Bangalore, India, in 2001 to discuss how to pursue cooperation in ICT in the region. Participating countries agreed that the following priority areas could be further explored as a next step in regional cooperation: (i) expanded telecommunications infrastructure, (ii) private-public partnership to promote the use of ICT and develop infrastructure, (iii) human resource development, and (iv) exploitation of the opportunities of information technology-enabled services such as running offshore call centers (India as a case in point). The Regional Roundtable also recommended establishing mechanisms for multilateral agencies to facilitate identifying and examining areas that would provide opportunities for developing countries in the region. The recommendation of the Regional Roundtable for promoting regional cooperation in ICT culminated in SASEC's decision to include ICT as an additional priority sector under regional TA 6010: SASEC Phase II.

7. SASEC countries are in different stages of ICT development in terms of penetration of ICT infrastructure and service provision. During the 1st SASEC ICT working group meeting, member countries identified five major areas of focus for ICT regional cooperation: (i) enhancement of regional connectivity via high-bandwidth connections among SASEC countries, (ii) establishment of community information centers, (iii) promotion of information sharing and human resources development in the ICT sector, (iv) strengthening and harmonization of regulations in the ICT sector, and (v) development of common software tools to enhance digital content available over the Internet, regardless of language.

8. Lack of regional connectivity was identified as a major problem in connecting the telecommunications networks of SASEC countries. There is no direct trunk or satellite telecommunications link between Bangladesh and Nepal, Bhutan and Nepal, and Bangladesh and Bhutan. Traffic between these countries is routed through a third country. The existing route of transmission of regional telecommunications traffic is extremely costly and inefficient, which adds to the cost of doing business in the subregion. The biggest obstacle to regional connectivity is lack of a mechanism of policy harmonization among SASEC countries, which can be improved by SASEC coordination.

9. While India has a large pool of skilled human resources in the ICT sector in the subregion, other SASEC countries are seriously constrained in ICT development due to lack of qualified human resources. SASEC could be an effective instrument to promote sharing of ICT experiences, knowledge, and best practices. Particularly, the best practices of high-quality and high-caliber ICT training centers in India can be exported and their success could be replicated

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<sup>3</sup> ADB. 2001. *Small-Scale Technical Assistance for Regional Roundtable on Information and Communication Technology*. Manila.

in other SASEC countries. Further, experiences in building community information centers when shared among SASEC countries can lead to savings on the initial learning costs of late-comers.

10. Regional interconnectivity and interoperability of ICT networks across SASEC countries are hampered by lack of regional regulatory frameworks and technical standards. Lack of mechanisms for pricing and revenue sharing on a regional level for cross-border traffic of ICT network has constrained interconnection of ICT networks among SASEC countries. Lack of common technical standards has prevented sharing of certain content materials. SASEC will be an effective route for harmonization of technical standards, development of regional regulatory frameworks to improve service quality and competition across countries, and creation of a supportive environment to help foster ICT development by the private sector.

11. ADB will be the most effective facilitator for promoting regional cooperation in ICT among SASEC countries since it already supports various SASEC activities that will create a synergy when combined with its involvement in SASEC ICT. The SASEC ICT development master plan will provide an appropriate guidance for the SASEC ICT working group to steer the activities of regional cooperation to a desirable direction.

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

#### **A. Purpose and Output**

12. The objective of the TA is to foster regional cooperation in ICT among SASEC countries. Toward this objective, the TA aims at (i) promoting regional connectivity in telecommunication networks, (ii) harmonization of technical standards and developing appropriate regulatory regimes for the subregion, (iii) facilitating cooperation in the development of ICT applications for the subregion, and (iv) strengthening the capacity for human resource development in ICT on a regional level. The TA will assist SASEC countries in preparing a SASEC ICT development master plan that will identify potential areas for cooperation among SASEC countries for ICT development on a regional level and develop regional ICT strategies, investment programs, and TA activities necessary to ensure regionwide integrated telecommunications and ICT network and service.

13. The TA will (i) formulate strategies for regional ICT sector development to promote regional cooperation; (ii) prepare a regional ICT development master plan, which will, in line with the strategies, set out an action plan for introducing capacity building and human resources development, and a series of investment and TA projects required to promote regional cooperation in the ICT sector; and (iii) develop a regulatory framework that supports regional cooperation in ICT.

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

14. A SASEC ICT development master plan will be based on the following three pillars: (i) interconnectivity based on convergence in both network (wire/wireless, narrow/broadband) and service (ICT applications such as e-education, e-health, e-government, e-trade, and e-park); (ii) capacity building and human resource development by sharing information and by establishing ICT regional training institute/scholarship programs; and (iii) regional ICT sector development strategies and regulatory framework. With this perspective, the TA will review the past and current situation of the ICT sector in each country in terms of ICT infrastructure development and its operation and maintenance, and the extent of use of ICT applications. Consolidating this situation analysis with the assessment of regional ICT sector development potential, the TA will

conduct a demand analysis for each mode of ICT network and applications on a regional level. The TA will also assess the institutional capacity of each country for regulation and service provision, and assess the potential for convergence to a common ICT regulatory environment on a regional level.

15. The SASEC ICT development master plan to be developed will cover a program of investments and TA, an action plan to implement capacity building and human resources development, and a sustainable financing plan to support the investment and TA program. The detailed TA activities are described in the terms of reference for consulting services in Appendix 2.

16. The success of the TA is highly contingent upon whether its output, a long-term plan for regional ICT sector development, will be supported by all member countries. Accordingly, it is essential to adopt a participatory approach from the beginning of TA implementation, involving all stakeholders in each member country, i.e., concerned ministries, regulators, service providers, and service users. The consultants will attend the working group meeting, as required, to update the participants on the progress of the TA and get a consensus for the general direction of their work. When the draft master plan is formulated, a workshop will be organized for consensus building among the member countries.

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

17. The estimated total cost of the TA is \$450,000 equivalent, of which the foreign exchange component is \$327,000 and the local currency component is \$123,000 equivalent. The total TA cost will be financed by ADB on a grant basis from ADB's TA funding program. Detailed cost estimates and the financing plan are in Appendix 3.

### **D. Implementation Arrangements**

18. ADB's Transport and Communications Division, South Asia Department will be the Executing Agency for the TA. The concerned ministry in each TA country will be an implementing agency (IA) and coordinate day-to-day implementation of the TA. Each IA will appoint a project manager who will act as a focal point for TA implementation. The TA will be guided by a steering committee to be formed before the start of the work. The steering committee will be composed of the standing member of the SASEC ICT working group in each country, representatives from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, and the ADB project officer. The steering committee meeting will be cochaired by one of the government representatives and ADB. The steering committee will review consultants' reports, reconcile different views among countries and ADB, provide feedback to the consultants, and guide further implementation. The consultants will attend the steering committee meetings with broad responsibility for liaison and coordination among committee members. The steering committee will meet at least twice, at inception and at the time when the consultants submit the draft master plan.

19. The TA will require international consulting services of 10 person-months engaged from a firm using the biodata technical proposal procedures based on the quality- and cost-based selection method, and domestic consulting services of 32 person-months engaged on an individual basis in accordance with ADB's *Guidelines on the Use of Consultants* and other arrangements satisfactory to ADB for the engagement of domestic consultants. The international consultants will be (i) an ICT sector policy specialist (5 person-months), and (ii) an ICT network/application specialist (5 person-months). The domestic consultants will be (i) an

ICT network specialist (4 person-months in each country), and (ii) an ICT application specialist (4 person-months in each country).

20. The international consultants will be based in India and make periodic trips to each of the other countries as work demands. The IA of India will provide counterpart staff, secretarial service, furnished office space suitable for two international consultants and two domestic consultants, office supplies, local communications including Internet access, and information and data on the ICT sector as required by the consultants. In the other countries, the IA will provide temporary office accommodation. Each IA will assign a team of counterpart staff to work with the consultants in the day-to-day conduct of the study when working in that country. The consulting services are expected to begin on 1 April 2005, and be completed on 31 August 2005. The consultants will submit the inception report by 15 April 2005, the interim report by 30 May 2005, and the draft final report by 15 August 2005. The consultant will submit the final report within 1 month after each country and ADB send their comments on the draft final report.

#### **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 \$450,000 on a grant basis for the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Information and Communication Technology Development Master Plan, and hereby reports this action to the Board.

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK

| Design Summary   | Targets<br>Performance Indicators   | Monitoring<br>Mechanisms                 | Risks/<br>Assumptions  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <b>Goal</b><br>Foster regional cooperation in ICT among SASEC countries                    | % change in the number of subregional projects in the region.   | SASEC ICT Working Group                  |  |
| <b>Purpose</b><br>Promote regional connectivity in telecommunication networks              | SASEC countries reaching an agreement on an action plan and time table to link SASEC countries via ICT networks 3 years after TA completion                       | SASEC ICT Working Group                  | <b>Assumption</b><br>SASEC countries' commitment to support the initiatives undertaken by the SASEC ICT working group  |
| Harmonize technical standards and develop appropriate regulatory regimes for the subregion | SASEC countries reaching an agreement on an action plan and time table to adopt regional ICT sector policies and regulatory framework 3 years after TA completion |  | <b>Risk</b><br>Large gap in the level of advancement of ICT sector among SASEC countries   |
| Facilitate cooperation in the development of ICT applications for the subregion; and       | All SASEC countries having cases of coordination to knowledge/technology sharing of setting up any ICT application 3 years after TA completion'                   |  |  |
| Strengthen the capacity for human resource development in ICT on a regional level          | Designation of a regional training center and drawing of a training program covering SASEC country government officials 3 years after TA completion               |  |  |
| <b>Outputs</b><br>Strategies for regional ICT cooperation                                  | Consultants' draft on regional ICT strategies, a ICT development master plan together and a regulatory framework by June 2005                                     | Consultants progress report              | <b>Assumptions</b><br>High quality services provided by the international and domestic consultants   |
| SASEC ICT development master plan  | Steering committee's review of the drafts by June 2005  | ADB missions to assess TA implementation | Sufficient information and data timely provided by each SASEC country  |
| Regulatory framework for regional cooperation  | SASEC ICT working group's approval of the master plan by July 2005  | Steering committee's review              | Provision of counterpart staff and other administrative assistance from SASEC countries<br>Policies, strategies, and priorities for investment plan agreed upon by SASEC countries |

*Continued on next page*

| Design Summary  | Targets<br>Performance Indicators                                   | Monitoring<br>Mechanisms   | Risks/<br>Assumptions  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <b>Activities/Inputs</b>  | Timely recruitment of consultants in accordance with ADB guidelines | Consultants progress report<br>ADB missions to assess TA implementation<br>Steering committee's review | <b>Assumptions</b><br>Timely recruiting of the consultants by the EA.<br>Close collaboration between consultants and SASEC countries |
| Recruit consultants   |   |  |  |
| Review the past and current situation of the ICT sector in each country in terms of ICT infrastructure and ICT applications |   |  |  |
| Conduct a demand analysis for each mode of ICT network and applications on a regional level                                 |   |  |  |
| Assess the institutional capacity of each country for regulation and service provision                                      |   |  |  |
| Assess the potential to converge to a common ICT regulatory environment on a regional level                                 |   |  |  |
| Develop regional ICT strategies, a ICT development master plan and a regulatory framework                                   |   |  |  |
| Organize steering committee meeting and workshops to discuss a range of action plans and programs provided by the reports   | Good quality consultant reports                                     |  |  |
| Organize steering committee meeting and workshops to discuss a range of action plans and programs provided by the reports   | Timely and successful organization of the planned meetings          |  |  |
| <b>Inputs</b>   |   |  |  |
| 1. 10 person-months of international and 32 person-months of domestic consulting services                                   |   |  |  |
| 2. Ta financing of \$450,000 on a grant basis by ADB's TA funding program.  | TA paper approved by ADB  | Internal review of the TA paper  | Government's contribution to TA  |

ADB = Asian Development Bank, ICT = information and communication technology, SASEC = South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation, TA = technical assistance.

## **SASEC ICT DEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN OUTLINE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **A. Objective**

1. The objective of the Technical Assistance (TA) is to foster regional in information and communications technology (ICT) among South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) countries by promoting (i) regional connectivity in telecommunication networks, (ii) harmonization of technical standards, (iii) appropriate regulatory regimes for the subregion, (iv) cooperation in the development of ICT applications for the subregion, and (v) cooperation among ICT operators and service providers. The TA will assist SASEC countries in preparing a SASEC ICT development master plan that will identify potential areas for cooperation on ICT development on a regional level among SASEC countries and develop regional ICT development strategies, investment programs, and TA activities necessary to ensure a regionwide integrated telecommunications and ICT network service.

2. The TA will (i) formulate strategies for regional ICT sector development to promote regional cooperation; (ii) prepare a regional ICT development master plan, which will, in line with the strategies, set out an action plan for introducing capacity building and human resources development, and a series of investment and TA projects required to promote regional cooperation in the ICT sector; and (iii) develop a regional ICT sector regulatory framework that supports regional cooperation in ICT.

3. To this end, consultants will (i) assess the extent and adequacy of exiting cross-border telecommunications/ICT linkages, (ii) assess the current status and future potential for ICT sector development in the country and region, (iii) assess the potential for ICT sector development on a regional level, expecting a regionwide ICT network that directly links SASEC countries, (iv) identify TA activities, and (v) develop investment programs to ensure a regionwide integrated ICT network.

4. The TA will require international consulting services of 10 person-months engaged from a firm in accordance with ADB's *Guidelines on the Use of Consultants* and domestic consulting services of 32 person-months engaged on an individual basis in accordance with arrangements satisfactory to ADB. The international consultants will be (i) an ICT sector policy specialist (5 person-months), and (ii) an ICT network/application specialist (5 person-months). The domestic consultants will be (i) an ICT network specialist (4 person-months in each country), and (ii) an ICT application specialist (4 person-months in each country).

### **B. Scope of Work**

#### **1. International Consultants**

5. A SASEC ICT development master plan will be based on the following four pillars: (i) interconnectivity based on convergence of both network (wire/wireless, narrow/broadband) and service (ICT applications such as e-education, e-health, e-government, e-trade, and e-park); (ii) capacity building and human resource development by sharing information and by establishing ICT regional training institute/scholarship programs; (iii) regional ICT sector regulatory framework; and (iv) regional ICT sector development strategies. With this framework, international consultants will carry out tasks in the following areas:

## (i) National and regional ICT activities

- (a) Review the telecommunications and ICT sector development plans of each country and identify the common interests in which regional issues are to be considered.
- (b) Review existing regional agenda or mechanisms for ICT sector development and consolidate them from the SASEC region perspective.

## (ii) Profile of regional ICT infrastructure facilities

- (a) Outline the current intraregional connections of telecommunications/ICT including technologies employed and an assessment of the state of the facilities.
- (b) Identify intraregional telecommunications/ICT facilities through wireless or optical fiber networks, installed hardware and software, and the content and services made available through these facilities.
- (c) Identify other network facilities available from other sources such as rail and power system.

## (iii) ICT demand analysis

- (a) After establishing baseline data of intraregional traffic over the past 5 years, forecast intraregional traffic of ICT infrastructure (wire/wireless, narrow/broadband, voice/nonvoice), both direct between countries and traffic that transits through third countries; and investigate the possibility of transiting extraregional traffic within the region.
- (b) Assess the current status of ICT applications in each country including e-education, e-health, e-government, e-trade, and e-park; assess the demand for such applications on country and regional levels, and identify the possible areas for regional cooperation such as (i) ICT tools for removing illiteracy, (ii) ICT for providing better health care services, (iii) access tools for main languages spoken in the South Asian region, and (iv) use of cost-effective wireless communication technologies for last-mile connectivity in remote and underserved areas.
- (c) Assess e-trade status between countries, and assess the potential for intraregional e-trade and the necessity for a regional regulatory framework that will facilitate cross-border e-trade.
- (d) Assess the achievement of past and ongoing initiatives for developing community e-centers over the region, and forecast the demand for community e-centers over the region.
- (e) Assess human resource development capacity in each country covering universities, research institutes, training centers, and the local community generally; for ICT professions especially, assess the demand for human resource development on country and regional levels, and identify possible areas for regional cooperation.

## (iv) ICT sector regulatory framework

- (a) Assess the regulatory framework for the ICT sector in each country, including existence of autonomous regulators, regulatory capacities of each country, regulatory coordination within the region, involvement of the private sector, and

- degree of competition allowed; and assess the potential to converge to a common regulatory framework on a regional level.
- (b) Identify technical issues affecting interoperation of national systems, including signaling, synchronization, numbering plan, and equipment standards.
  - (c) Review telecommunications/broadband pricing/revenue-sharing schemes in the region and assess the impact of pricing on such issues as private sector investment and disincentives (if any) to intraregional traffic, particularly in comparison with international norms.
  - (d) Propose a desirable regional ICT sector regulatory framework, identify ways of formalizing ties among the various national telecommunications and ICT agencies on a regional level, and identify necessary legislation in each country to accommodate the regional regulatory framework.
  - (e) Conduct the analysis for the prospective roles of the public and private sectors in ICT sector development in the region and make recommendations for promoting public and private partnership in ICT development.
- (v) Investment and technical assistance projects
- (a) Develop regional investment and TA projects to meet the forecast demand of ICT network and ICT applications, including community e-centers in the context of regional strategies for a regional ICT sector development, and identify the time schedule of each project together with the potential for financing through private-public partnership.
  - (b) Identify investment and TA projects eligible for Asian Development Bank (ADB) assistance, and identify possible financing sources for other investment and TA projects.
- (vi) ICT development master plan
- (a) Prepare a SASEC ICT development master plan, including a program of investments and TA, an action plan to implement capacity building and human resources development, and a sustainable financing plan to support the investment and TA program.
  - (b) Recommend an appropriate organizational and institutional framework necessary for implementing the master plan.
- (vii) Other issues
- (a) Organize a workshop to present the draft SASEC ICT development master plan to the SASEC ICT working group and other stakeholders.
  - (b) Attend the SASEC ICT working group meeting, as required, and update the members on the progress of the TA.
  - (c) Prepare detailed terms of reference for domestic consultants, recruit them, and supervise their work.
  - (d) Undertake additional tasks as reasonably requested by ADB staff.

## **2. Domestic Consultants**

6. In general, the work of all the domestic specialists will overlap with that of the counterpart international consultants. The domestic specialists will provide the following services under the supervision of the international consultants:

- (i) Help the international consultants collect documents for studies and data.
- (ii) Conduct field-based research and studies.
- (iii) Design and translate appropriate questionnaires, interview guides, and other research tools.
- (iv) Carry out interviews, if necessary.
- (v) Compile and analyze results of interviews, statistics, surveys, etc.
- (vi) Prepare reports and summaries of survey and other research results.
- (vii) Liaise with the Government and the international consultants to provide necessary information and advice.

### **C. Reports**

7. The following reports, all in the English language, will be submitted by the consultants to each country and ADB. The final report will also be submitted in CD ROM.

- (i) Inception report. This brief report should be submitted within 2 weeks of the start of the services. It should outline any changes in the approach, methodology, or work plan, as well as cost implications for the consultants' services (contained in the consultants' proposal) that are required to fulfill the terms of reference.
- (ii) Working papers. These reports, prepared on a need basis as part of the consultation process with each Government, will deal with aspects that have major implications for each country's ICT development plan.
- (iii) Interim report: To be submitted at the end of 2 months from inception.
- (iv) Draft final report. To be submitted at the end of 4.5 months from inception.
- (v) Final report: To be submitted within 1 month of receipt of comments from each country and ADB.

### COST ESTIMATES AND FINANCING PLAN

| Item                                      | Cost (\$)      |
|---|----------------|
| <b>Asian Development Bank<sup>a</sup></b> |                |
| 1. Consultants                            |                |
| a. Remuneration                           |                |
| i. International                          | 255,000        |
| ii. Domestic                              | 112,000        |
| b. Travel                                 |                |
| i. International                          | 8,000          |
| ii. Regional                              | 6,000          |
| 2. Communication, Reports and Documents   | 6,000          |
| 3. Steering Committee Meeting             | 18,000         |
| 4. Workshops                              | 20,000         |
| 5. Contingencies                          | 25,000         |
| <b>Total</b>                              | <b>450,000</b> |

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