

## **Task Force for Infrastructure Initiatives Collaborative Framework**

Meeting of Task Force Members and the RETA Consulting Team  
Asian Development Bank, PLCO, Sydney, 5 June 2006

### *Summary of Main Points*

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#### **I. Introduction**

1. An informal meeting of donors participating in the Pacific Infrastructure Task Force (PITF) was held at the ADB's PLCO Office in Sydney on 5 June 2006, to introduce the recently-appointed consulting team for TA 6257-REG: *Improving the Delivery of Infrastructure Services* (the RETA). Representatives of the ADB, AusAid, NZAid, and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) attended the meeting, together with the full consulting team (see Annex).<sup>1</sup>
2. Donor representatives expressed strong support for the aims of the Task Force and the RETA and welcomed the appointment of the consulting team. Following brief introductions around the table and brief updates issues and plans were discussed as summarised briefly below.

#### **II. Summary of Conclusions**

- (i) A brief summary of the PITF and Collaborative Framework will be prepared for presentation at the NZ Pacific Informal Donors's meeting, and this would serve as a means of indirectly soliciting feedback and request for PITF participation by other donors.
- (ii) Information paper for FEMM should also be prepared and submitted to PIFS
- (iii) The presentation provides a good overview but will be tightened up to make more concise. Revised presentation to be provided to the PITF for further comment and use as appropriate.
- (iv) Country consultations will begin as soon as possible with initial consultations more introductory in-nature and detailed information gathering to be completed. Fiji would be visited the latter part of the week of 13 June and Tonga and Samoa the following weeks. A detailed work program will be provided to the PITF as soon as possible and it is hoped that PITF members or their representatives from country-post might be able to participate in country consultations.
- (v) A first regional workshop the last week of August in Sydney was agreed; planning needs to start asap
- (vi) Task Force Members will provide feedback on use of logos, information availability contacts, etc.

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<sup>1</sup> The World Bank representative could not attend the Monday meeting due to commitments to earthquake relief in Indonesia. However, the representative was able to meet with the ADB and the consulting team on the previous Friday, prior to his departure for Indonesia.

### **III. Updates**

3. The RETA consultant team contracted, in process of identifying regional consultants and peer reviewers; solicited inputs from the task force

### **IV. Involvement of Other Development Partners**

4. Involvement of other development partners were discussed; . Noted large financial involvement of China, Japan, Taiwan, and MCC; but should the group be kept focussed. All agreed at least need to coordinate with the other development partners.
5. A Pacific Informal Donors' Meeting is to be held in Auckland on 28 June. NZAid suggested that a short briefing paper on the collaborative framework and the RETA be prepared for circulation at the meeting. The RETA consultants will draft the briefing paper for ADB review; it will be issued to the meeting through ADB channels.

### **V. Country Consultations**

6. The ADB presented for discussion a draft PowerPoint presentation on the Task Force and the inception of the RETA, which is intended as a tool for use by Task Force members and the consultants to introduce the Task Force's Infrastructure Initiative to all countries in the region. After a detailed review by the Task Force, the presentation has been modified to reflect comments from the participants both during and after the meeting.
7. The Forum Economic Ministers' Meeting, organised by the Forum Secretariat, will be held in early July. It was suggested that a briefing paper on the collaborative framework and RETA be prepared also for circulation at that Meeting.
8. The consultants will collect information from regional agencies such as PIFS and SOPAC regarding relevant regional events (workshops, Ministers' Meetings, etc) for the balance of the year.
9. In the Inception phase, the RETA will conduct initial consultations in Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, PNG, and FSM. The objective of the country visits is to gain the countries' perspectives on infrastructure issues, priorities, and lessons, and the extent of ongoing investment projects, reform programs, budgets, and strategies. Views from both the public and private sectors will be sought. During this time, the Team members will also attempt to meet with key personnel of ADB in Manila, AusAid in Canberra, World Bank in Sydney, and other Task Force members as time permits. The balance of countries in the region will be visited during phase 2 of the RETA, after the first workshop.

### **VI. Regional Workshop**

10. It is proposed to hold the first regional workshop during the last week of August in Sydney, to discuss initial findings and invite country and donor input to the detailed work program for the balance of the RETA. Country representatives (two per country) in key capacities and Task Force member representatives will be invited to attend. Country representatives will be

invited to present national strategies and priorities related to infrastructure, and donors will discuss ongoing programs, projects, and regional strategies. Lessons learned from the participants' perspectives will be emphasised. The consultants will lead discussions on opportunities and constraints, including more direct involvement of the private sector, and propose a harmonised approach to incorporating country priorities and ongoing initiatives in the work of the Task Force and the RETA.

#### VII. **OTHER**

11. The consultants will send a message by email to all members of the Task Force, detailing the Team's work program to the 1<sup>st</sup> workshop, including the proposed dates of specific country visits. The message will also ask their agencies' assistance in sourcing project reports and other documentation relevant to the agencies' activities in Pacific infrastructure, providing names of key in-country contacts and of in-country representatives of the donor agency who might be interested in participating in the RETA's consultations. The consultants would be grateful also to learn of any relevant on-going workshops conducted by the donor that might be open to the consultants to attend.

Attachments

**Annex: Attendees to the 5 June Task Force Meeting  
Task Force Member Representatives**

***ADB***

Nancy Convard  
Robert Guild  
Eleanor Ye

***AusAid***

Peter O'Connor  
Michelle Havenga

***NZAid***

Nigel Ewels (by telephone)

***PIFS***

John Budden

***The RETA Consultants***

Christopher Cheatham, Team Leader  
Michael Porter, Infrastructure Financing Specialist  
Trevor Bull, Utility Regulation Specialist  
Nicholas Allen, Regional Coordinator/Infrastructure Planner  
Latu Kupa, Regional Infrastructure Specialist