

**MONTHLY REPORT ON SMALL-SCALE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS
NOT EXCEEDING \$150,000 PER PROJECT
July 2002**

1. Strengthening the Debt Management Capacity of the Department of Aid and Debt Management, Bhutan

Executing Agency : Department of Aid and Debt Management (DADM)
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 116.0
ADBBO Listing : 20 May 2002
Date Approved : 04 July 2002

Project Description :

The major objective of the TA is to strengthen the capacity and efficiency of Bhutan's aid and debt management system. This is proposed to be achieved by the installation and usage of an enhanced computer-based database supported by built-in control functions within DADM. This will also include developing in-house capacity to analyze and measure the risk aspects of debt management. The debt management system includes determining the optimal level of borrowings at appropriate cost, servicing of outstanding debt, onlending, recovery, accounting and budget preparation. This information needs to be promptly and accurately recorded on a loan-by-loan basis suitable for analysis and according to established manuals and instructions. Another important aspect of debt management is the management of external risks, due to changes in foreign exchange rates or interest rates. The risk management unit will need to be able to analyze the actual and predicted exposures to foreign exchange and interest rate risks, which in turn will facilitate decision making on the overall debt portfolio.

Status of Consulting Services: No action has been taken to recruit consultants.

2. Rehabilitation of the Atamyrat-Imamnazar Road, Turkmenistan

Executing Agency : Turkmenautoyollari (TAY)
TA Type : Project Preparatory
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 03 April 2002
Date Approved : 09 July 2002

Project Description :

The purpose of the TA is to prepare the road construction and rehabilitation project of Atamyrat-Imamnazar suitable for ADB financing. The proposed Project will facilitate humanitarian aid initially, support reconstruction of Afghanistan, and in the long term stimulate cross-border trade. The scope of the proposed project will be to construct the missing section of the road (34 km) and to rehabilitate the existing road (81 km).

Status of Consulting Services: Direct selection of consultants has been approved.

3. Twelfth Tax Conference, Regional

Executing Agency : Asian Development Bank
TA Type : Conference
TA Amount (\$'000) : 100.0
ADBBO Listing : 08 March 2002
Date Approved : 08 July 2002

Project Description :

The overall goal of the TA is to contribute to the development of human resources for economic growth and poverty reduction. The main objectives of the ADB Tax Conference are to: (i) provide a capacity building opportunity through the exchange of views, experiences and new knowledge in international taxation for policy design and administration; and (ii) provide a forum that will encourage mutual understanding and cooperation among tax policymakers and senior officials from DMCs of the region, in particular, on emerging issues of taxation.

Status of Consulting Services: No consultant is required.

4. Poverty Mapping in Selected DMCs, Regional

Executing Agency	:	Asian Development Bank
TA Type	:	Others
TA Amount (\$'000)	:	150.0
ADBBO Listing	:	26 June 2002
Date Approved	:	22 July 2002

Project Description :

The goal of the RETA is to generate reliable estimates of poverty and inequality at disaggregated levels (geographic, or along other dimensions), by applying a technique that combines income/expenditure survey data and population census data. Based on these estimates, poverty maps will be produced that will help achieve the following purposes: (i) more accurate and cost-effective targeting and monitoring of poverty-reduction projects and programs; (ii) improve ex-ante impact assessment of proposed projects and policies; (iii) improve poverty analysis and statistical capacity in the participating DMCs; and (iv) foster good governance by increasing the transparency of government resource allocation and disseminating information about the geographic distribution of poverty to stakeholders. The availability of small area data will also open up new economic, thematic, and sector work research opportunities. The output of the RETA will thus constitute an input for the policy and project economic research work of the Economics and Research Department.

Status of Consulting Services: No action has been taken to recruit consultants.