

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPLETION REPORT

Division: Sustainable Infrastructure Division

TA No., Country and Name			Amount Approved: \$ 225,00.00	
TA 8446-REG: Sustainable Energy Training Program			Revised Amount: N/A	
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			31 December 2013	23 December 2014
<p>Description</p> <p>The common notion about clean energy, while it serves environmental and climate change mitigation objectives is that it is more expensive and benefits thereof not readily or concretely seen. A combination of factors including decreases in the up-front costs, improving efficiencies, favorable resource levels, and other conditions has resulted in the grid parity² of solar and onshore wind power in some cases. Energy efficiency is slowly picking up pace, however slowly. The economics for renewable energy is gradually bearing robust results comparable to the economics of conventional power. These narratives are what are lacking in the understanding and appreciation of clean energy investments. It is through knowledge exchange among and partnerships with energy think tanks, ADB DMCs and major players in the energy sector that are essential to shifting paradigms and arming ADB developing member countries (DMC) and staff alike to be relevant, responsive and effective in the push for a low carbon growth. This technical assistance supported activities to this end, partnering with major institutes and tapping the participation of key agencies from ADB DMCs.</p> <p>Expected Impact, Outcome and Outputs</p> <p>The overall impact of the TA was the increased capacity of DMCs to develop and implement clean energy projects. The expected outcome was the enhancement of knowledge and regional cooperation of key participants/stakeholders in DMCs. The output was to support DMCs to participate in knowledge events and activities.</p> <p>Delivery of Inputs and Conduct of Activities</p> <p>The TA supported the conduct of four knowledge events and brought in the participation of key energy agencies from ADB DMCs. These knowledge events are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Large Scale Wind Power Integration Workshop (23–26 September 2013, in Beijing, People's Republic of China) that sought to equip DMC participants with the knowledge of the requirements for and skills to address the grid integration of variable power from solar and wind generation. The workshop was conducted in coordination with the Energy Division, East Asia Department (EARD) and the State Grid Corporation of China. (ii) The 6th Meeting of the Asia Solar Energy Forum (ASEF) (20–23 November 2013, in Tashkent, Uzbekistan) that had the theme, "Solar Energy Technology Trends and Opportunities." The meeting that was participated by ADB DMCs, solar power companies and manufacturers, and project developers discussed the latest trends in solar energy technology. It was also an occasion for the Government of Uzbekistan to share their experience in developing their solar energy resources up to the point of project development that was supported by ADB. The 6th meeting of the ASEF was co-organized with the Government of Uzbekistan, and supported by the Uzbekistan Resident Mission (URM), Energy Division of Central and West Asia 				

¹ Financing partners: the governments of Australia, Norway, Spain, and Sweden. Administered by the Asian Development Bank.

² Grid parity refers to the point when power generation from renewable energy technologies become competitive with grid power.

Department (CWRD). Support also was provided by the Pacific Department (PARD), Private Sector Operations Department (PSOD) and South Asia Department (SARD).

- (iii) Sustainable Energy Training: Electricity Generation and Supply – Challenges and Opportunities in Asia (25–29 November 2013, in Bangkok, Thailand) aimed to build capacity of senior officials from energy/power ministries and electric utility companies by providing inputs on the latest reforms in the electricity sector, and electricity generation, transmission and distribution technologies, including renewable energy and smart grids. The training was co-organized with the International Energy Agency, Asian Productivity Organization (APO) and the Ministry of Energy of Thailand. Each of the operations departments supported the event by either sending members of its staff as resource person or trainee.
- (iv) Roundtable on Energy Efficiency Policies for the Southeast Asia Region (11–12 December 2013 in Jakarta, Indonesia) discussed energy efficiency initiatives, national energy efficiency policy implementation, and regional energy market opportunities and barriers in the region. The roundtable was conducted in collaboration with the International Energy Agency, International Copper Alliance and the Indonesian Directorate General of New Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation. Eleven members of ADB staff from regional departments and the Regional and Sustainable Development Department (RSDD) participated in the roundtable workshop.

Evaluation of Outputs and Achievement of Outcome

The TA provided for the organization of the four events and the participation of a total of 56 representatives from 18 DMCs. TA resources were also used to support the participation and input of subject matter experts to these knowledge activities.

Overall Assessment and Rating

Overall, the TA is considered highly successful by the Energy CoP. The TA was able to achieve its objective of supporting DMC attendance in events and trainings intended to enhance DMC capacity to implement clean energy projects. ADB Energy staff also contributed their knowledge and benefited from the events under this TA.

Major Lessons

There are common issues in clean energy development, financing and technology and these could be addressed in the global scale with the end view that any gains from this level would trickle down and be applicable to the specific contexts of ADB DMCs both in terms of maximizing the potential and recognizing the constraints of their resources, policy environment and technological advancement. What is important in these regional venues of learning and exchange is to give space and due regard to local dynamics in order for these venues to be truly relevant and sustainable to target participants.

Recommendations and Follow-Up Actions

With the increasing and fast-paced change in technology, approaches and economics of clean energy, the case for continued support to learning venues cannot be overemphasized. It is recommended that ADB to sustain its support to increasing capacity and skill among its DMCs. Corollary, to this is for the programming of these knowledge events to be strategic, targeted and have clear-cut measurable indicators to assess their impact.

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