



Regional: Promoting South Asian Regional Economic Cooperation II

Project Name	Promoting South Asian Regional Economic Cooperation II												
Project Number	40371-012												
Country / Economy	Regional												
Project Status	Closed												
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance												
Source of Funding / Amount	<table><tr><td colspan="2">TA 6512-REG: Promoting South Asian Regional Economic Cooperation II</td></tr><tr><td>Technical Assistance Special Fund</td><td>US\$ 1.50 million</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">TA 6512-REG: Promoting South Asian Regional Economic Cooperation II (Supplementary)</td></tr><tr><td>Technical Assistance Special Fund</td><td>US\$ 225,000.00</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">TA 6512-REG: Promoting South Asian Regional Economic Cooperation II (Supplementary)</td></tr><tr><td>Technical Assistance Special Fund</td><td>US\$ 525,000.00</td></tr></table>	TA 6512-REG: Promoting South Asian Regional Economic Cooperation II		Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 1.50 million	TA 6512-REG: Promoting South Asian Regional Economic Cooperation II (Supplementary)		Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 225,000.00	TA 6512-REG: Promoting South Asian Regional Economic Cooperation II (Supplementary)		Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 525,000.00
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Strategic Agendas	Environmentally sustainable growth Inclusive economic growth Regional integration												
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions Partnerships												
Sector / Subsector	Industry and trade / Trade and services Transport / Multimodal logistics												
Gender	No gender elements												
Description	<p>The expected impact of the RETA is the enhanced regional cooperation and integration (RCI) in South Asia. The envisaged outcomes are (i) enhanced capacity of the SAARC Secretariat and its selected regional centers in planning and implementation of cooperation agendas; (ii) increased regional cooperation activities and projects within SAARC; (iii) effective sharing of information and experience on regional cooperation; and (iv) enhanced capacity of the SAARC member countries to implement RCI programs and projects. The activities of the RETA will be flexible to accommodate priority areas agreed in the joint SAARC-ADB annual work program. The five key outputs are:</p> <p>(i) Joint SAARC-ADB annual work program. This aims at providing more concerted and planned assistance to the SAARC Secretariat and will entail formulating a joint work plan for the sustained development of the region.</p> <p>(ii) Studies. This would include sector studies, feasibility studies and thematic issues papers to support the formulation of the policy agenda in the priority sectors identified under SAARC.</p> <p>(iii) Capacity building for selected regional centers. The specific program components will be developed in consultation with the SAARC Secretariat and select regional centers in order to ensure that they are need-based and add value to the proposed and ongoing programs in these centers.</p> <p>(iv) Training for the officials from SAARC member states. The training programs will be developed in close consultation with SAARC Secretariat and member countries. Specific training programs could be designed based on the successful training models of other regional cooperation initiatives such as the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) and the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS).</p> <p>(v) Programs to support institutional links with other regional organizations such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Such links would not only enable sharing of experiences and learning from each other, but also enable accessing the enormous trade potential between regions and blocs. This would ultimately enhance greater economic gains for all partners.</p>												
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has been collaborating closely with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to promote regional cooperation in South Asia. The memorandum of understanding between SAARC and ADB, signed on 12 April 2004, provided a framework for collaboration between the two institutions on activities to accelerate broad-based economic growth and social development; promote cross-border movement of goods, services, and people through regional cooperation; and promote institutional links with other regional cooperation initiatives.</p> <p>A regional technical assistance (TA) assisted the SAARC Secretariat to (i) implement priority regional cooperation activities; (ii) enhance the capacity of the SAARC Secretariat, select entities and regional centers, and member states for effective planning, processing, and implementation of the key regional cooperation agenda; and (iii) prepare activities to strengthen cooperation between SAARC and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Two other TAs also assisted SAARC for a workshop on the SAARC Development Fund, and the energy sector dialogue.</p> <p>During the SAARC secretary general's visit to ADB headquarters on 17-18 December 2007, the SAARC delegation requested ADB to provide a follow-on umbrella TA to move forward key decisions and outcomes of SAARC summits and support the activities of the SAARC Secretariat. The activities of the TA are in line with the operational objectives of the Regional Cooperation Strategy and Program for South Asia (2006?2008). The TA is included in the South Asia Regional Cooperation Operations Business Plan for 2009?2010.</p>												
Impact	Enhanced regional cooperation and integration in South Asia												
Project Outcome													
Description of Outcome	Enhanced capacity of SAARC Secretariat, SAARC entities including select regional centers, and government entities of SAARC member states, as approved by the SAARC mechanisms, to effectively plan and implement regional cooperation activities												

Progress Toward Outcome	<p>The SAARC Secretariat approved the following Studies to be undertaken under the RETA:</p> <p>(1) Development of Institutional Framework for Data Collection on Trade in Services, including Capacity Building;</p> <p>(2) Study on Codification of Variations in the Level of Development of Capital Markets in SAARC Member States</p> <p>(3) Study on the Regional Economic Integration in SAARC, its current extent and recommendations for further deepening (Phase-I and Phase-II)</p> <p>(4) Study on Development of web-based, user-protected interface and institution of a designated Statistics Cell at Secretariat for coordinating all statistical data or requirements thereof</p> <p>(5) Second Phase of SAARCSTAT Study for launching of SAARCSTAT Web Portal</p> <p>(6) Study for SAARC to examine the need to develop a regional coordinated surveillance mechanism to forecast the fall-out of external shocks which may create an economic and financial dislocation within the SAARC region.</p> <p>(7) Study on South Asia Regional Power Exchange</p>
Implementation Progress	
Description of Project Outputs	<p>Studies and papers on trade, economic, and financial cooperation</p> <p>Capacity development programs for SAARC entities and training programs for SAARC officials from SAARC member states.</p> <p>Initiatives for regional food security</p> <p>Programs to support institutional links with other regional organizations</p>
Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)	<p>An Informal SAARC Finance Ministers' Meeting will be held at the sidelines of the ADB Annual Meeting on 4 May 2018 in Manila, Philippines.</p> <p>The Second Meeting of the SAARC Council of Experts of Energy Regulators was held on 24-25 October 2017 in Islamabad, Pakistan.</p> <p>The Third SAARC-ADB Special Meeting on the Regional Economic Integration Study was held on 12-13 April 2017 and the theme is Transport Connectivity.</p> <p>Study on Development of Institutional Framework for Data Collection on Trade in Services, including Capacity Building_</p> <p>" Proposed by SAARCSTAT and Committee on Economic Cooperation of SAARC Commerce Secretaries</p> <p>" Study has been completed.</p> <p>" Subsequently under second phase, draft regional common schedules were also prepared for negotiations under SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services (SATIS)</p> <p>Study on Codification of Variations in the Level of Development of Capital Markets in SAARC Member States</p> <p>" The Study was recommended by SAARC Colloquium on Management of Stock Exchange Systems and Regulation of Stock Markets, SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu, 21-22 April 2008.</p> <p>" The Study has been completed and published.</p> <p>" The Study would serve as a reference document for the SAARC Expert Group on Development of Capital Market the Second Meeting of which will be hosted by India in January 2017.</p> <p>Study on the Regional Economic Integration in SAARC, its current extent and recommendations for further deepening (Phase-I and Phase-II)</p> <p>" Study Completed.</p> <p>" Launched during Eighteenth SAARC Summit in Kathmandu on 25 November 2014.</p> <p>" Two Special SAARC-ADB Meeting on the Regional Economic Integration Study (Phase-II) have been held in Goa, India and Male', Maldives on 14-15 April 2015 and 27-28 January 2016, respectively.</p> <p>" Seven recommendations of the Study have been identified for implementation on priority basis. The timeline for their implementation has also been agreed.</p> <p>" Third Meeting, scheduled to be held in Islamabad tentatively on 6-7 December 2016, will review the progress.</p> <p>" The theme of the Third Meeting would be connectivity.</p> <p>Study on Development of web-based, user-protected interface and institution of a designated Statistics Cell at Secretariat for coordinating all statistical data or requirements thereof</p> <p>" The Study has been completed.</p> <p>" SAARCSTAT examined the Study and made its recommendations for implementation.</p> <p>" Eighth Meeting of Heads of SAARC Statistical Organisations (SAARCSTAT) held in New Delhi on 29-31 August 2016 was briefed by the ADB Consultant for SAARC Projects about the SAARC-ADB cooperation in the field of statistics</p> <p>Second Phase of SAARCSTAT Study for launching of SAARCSTAT Web Portal</p> <p>" In the Second phase of the Study, SAARCSTAT Web Portal, hosted by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, was launched during the Sixth Meeting of SAARCSTAT (Kathmandu, 12-13 June 2014) and Nodal Points in all Member States are being trained in updating the Web Portal to ensure that latest data in respect of all Member States is available on the Portal at all times.</p> <p>" A Meeting of two experts from Pakistan Bureau of Statistics was arranged with the former lead consultant (Dr. S. K. Nath from India) and former national technical consultant (Mr. Anjib Shakya from Nepal) for exchange of views and understanding modalities of transfer of data and other technical issues. It was held at the SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu on 29-30 June 2015.</p> <p>" Pakistan hosted first Training Programme of Nodal Points for updating SAARCSTAT Web Portal on 15-16 February 2016 with the financial and technical assistance of ADB.</p> <p>" At the Eighth Meeting of SAARCSTAT (New Delhi, 29-31 August 2016), ADB Consultant for SAARC Projects presented the Report of the First Training Programme of Nodal Points for updating SAARCSTAT Web Portal. The delegation of Pakistan informed that Pakistan would continue to host the Web Portal till alternative arrangements are made. He also informed that the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics is receiving good response from the Nodal Points who underwent training in Islamabad.</p> <p>" The Second Training Programme would be hosted by India at DGCIIS, Kolkata in end November 2016.</p> <p>Study for SAARC to examine the need to develop a regional coordinated surveillance mechanism to forecast the fall-out of external shocks which may create an economic and financial dislocation within the SAARC region.</p> <p>" Study was conducted by the Consultant Mr. Subir Gokarna. It was considered by the Seventh Meeting of Inter-Governmental Expert Group (IGEG) on Financial Issues held at the SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu on 20-21 May 2014 and recommended that the Study be thoroughly revised.</p> <p>" The Revised Study conducted by Consultant Mr. Rajan Govil was considered by the Eighth Meeting of IGEG on Financial Issues held in Islamabad on 20-21 July 2016. The Meeting discussed in detail the need to have an exclusive Regional Coordinated Surveillance Mechanism for the SAARC region. It agreed that it would be premature at this time to consider establishing an exclusive Mechanism as the Member States are regularly working on their respective surveillance systems to ensure economic and financial stability.</p> <p>Study on South Asia Regional Power Exchange</p> <p>" (Seventh Meeting of the Working Group on Energy held in Marawila, Sri Lanka, on 15-16 March 2013 endorsed the Study.</p> <p>" Status: Completed</p> <p>The TA was completed on 15 June 2018</p>
Geographical Location	Regional
Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects	
Environmental Aspects	
Involuntary Resettlement	
Indigenous Peoples	
Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation	
During Project Design	SAARC Secretariat is being closely consulted on the TA design and implementation arrangements. SAARC Secretariat, SAARC entities, and SAARC member states, will fully participate in the activities of the TA.
During Project Implementation	Relevant stakeholders are consulted and if necessary are invited to participate during meetings.
Business Opportunities	
Consulting Services	Consulting Services yet to be determined

Responsible ADB Officer	Butiong, Ronald Antonio Q.
Responsible ADB Department	South Asia Department
Responsible ADB Division	Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Div, SARD
Executing Agencies	Asian Development Bank 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550, Philippines

Timetable	
Concept Clearance	25 Aug 2008
Fact Finding	17 Dec 2007 to 18 Dec 2007
MRM	-
Approval	12 Dec 2008
Last Review Mission	-
PDS Creation Date	03 Oct 2008
Last PDS Update	06 Sep 2018

TA 6512-REG

Milestones					
Approval	Signing Date	Effectivity Date	Closing		
			Original	Revised	Actual
12 Dec 2008	-	12 Dec 2008	28 Feb 2011	15 Jun 2018	15 Aug 2018

Financing Plan/TA Utilization							Cumulative Disbursements	
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
2,250,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,250,000.00	17 Jun 2022	2,170,579.29

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Request for Information	http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=40371-012
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