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India: Assam Skill University Project

Project Name

Assam Skill University Project

Project Number

53277-002

Country / Economy

- India

Project Status

Active

Project Type / Modality of Assistance

- Loan
- Technical Assistance

Source of Funding / Amount

Loan 4166-IND: Assam Skill University Project

Source

Amount

Ordinary capital resources US\$ 112.00 million

TA 6875-IND: Supporting the Development of Higher-Level Skills and Entrepreneurship

Source

Amount

Japan Fund for Prosperous and Resilient Asia and the Pacific US\$ 1.00 million

Climate Change Fund US\$ 150,000.00

Operational Priorities

- OP1: Addressing remaining poverty and reducing inequalities
- OP2: Accelerating progress in gender equality
- OP3: Tackling climate change, building climate and disaster resilience, and enhancing environmental sustainability
- OP6: Strengthening governance and institutional capacity
- OP7: Fostering regional cooperation and integration

Sector / Subsector

- **Education** / Technical and vocational education and training - Tertiary

Gender

Gender equity theme

Description

The project will assist the Government of Assam in strengthening its skills education and training system to ensure decent employment for all and accelerate sustainable and inclusive infrastructure and industrial development. It will create pathways for skills progression and mobility between technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and higher education through the establishment of a skill university,

and will raise skill levels to enhance the productivity and competitiveness of industries in Assam. The project will enhance skills and employability of youth and adults, especially women and those from disadvantaged groups, and improve their prospect of getting higher-paying, decent jobs. The project will form part of the strategic engagement of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) with the Government of Assam for economic corridor development, environmental sustainability, and climate change.

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy

Assam is the largest state in the North Eastern Region of India in terms of economy and population and occupies a strategic position for various regional cooperation programs in South Asia and Southeast Asia. Assam's economy registered high growth rates from fiscal year (FY) 2016 to FY2019 (12.7% on average) and contributed to 61.2% of the region's gross domestic product (GDP) in FY2019. Despite its abundant natural resources and higher proportion of young population (under 40 years of age) than the rest of India, Assam has yet to unleash its growth potential. In FY2019, the state's GDP per capita (

92,533) ranked 28th among the 33 states and union territories. The structure of the economy has been slow to change, with the primary sector (agriculture and mining) still accounting for 27.8% of the state's GDP in FY2019. Assam is landlocked and largely rural, and has underdeveloped infrastructure, and its economy is dominated by low value-added, natural resource-based products and is poorly integrated with regional and global value chains. Its manufacturing sectors are undiversified and small (11.4% of GDP in FY2019). Studies conducted by ADB indicate that aggressive infrastructure and industrial development specifically corridor-based industrial development is necessary for Assam to grow its economy. However, they identify limited availability of a skilled workforce as one of the constraints to this strategy.

Assam was home to about 24.8 million people aged 15 years and above (49% women) in 2018, of whom more than 11.4 million (46%) were in the labor force (84% in rural areas), and 10.6 million (93% of the labor force) were employed. The share of nonfarm employment grew steadily, from 32% in 2005 to 44% in 2012, and to 77% in 2018. Gender disparities in Assam's labor force are stark: as of 2018, the labor force participation rate for women was 13% compared to 78% for men, the unemployment rate was 27% for women compared to 4% for men, and 30% of women were in farm employment compared to 22% of men.

Fewer prospects for socioeconomic development have propelled out-migration for jobs and education, further exacerbating shortages of skills for manufacturing and services. Assam is prone to natural hazards such as cyclonic storms and floods, which are likely to intensify because of climate change. The incidence of poverty remains higher than the national average and has worsened amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Moreover, educational attainment was lower than the national average in 2018: 82% of the population aged 15 years and above received education only up to grade 10 and below or did not receive education at all (84% of women, and 79% of men), while 13% attained grades 11-12 (11% of women and 26% of men), and barely 5% completed higher education (4% of women and 6% of men, footnote 6). TVET and higher education in Assam are undersupplied: as of FY2019 there was 1 industrial training institute (ITI) per 1 million population (compared to 11 in India); 15 colleges per 100,000 population aged 18-23 (compared to 28 in India); and 18.7% gross enrollment ratio in higher education for the population aged 18-23 (compared to 26.3% in India), 18.3% for the female population (compared to 26.4% in India), and

19.1% for the male population (compared to 26.3% in India). The lack of supply is exacerbated by the inability of TVET and higher education institutions to operate to their full capacity and accept all qualified students (para. 7).

Impact

Decent employment for all ensured

Inclusive and sustainable infrastructure and industrial development accelerated

Project Outcome

Description of Outcome

Industry-aligned and flexible skills education and training system strengthened in Assam

Progress Toward Outcome

To be reviewed during mid-term review mission in late 2024.

Implementation Progress

Description of Project Outputs

University management and operating systems, business models, and faculty development and management systems developed.

Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient university campus and facilities developed.

Industry-aligned and flexible skills education and training programs designed and delivered.

Capacity to manage and support entrepreneurship, applied R&D and technology transfer developed.

Access to professional development and quality skills education and training resources in Assam, other states, and neighboring countries improved.

Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)

Since May 2023, ASU Management and Operating System Development Consultants have been supporting the establishment of ASU management and operating systems. The recruitment processes of management, academic and non-academic staff started in August 2023.-Works related to deliverables of CS03 which pertain to University management and operating systems, business models, and faculty development and management systems is under progress. Around 20% of delivery is completed and rests are under progress at various stages.-Bid Evaluation of Business Development support agency has been completed and submission 2 is shared with ADB on 20th Jan'24 for obtaining no objection. -Civil works for interim campus is under progress and is expected to be completed by May'24. Course curriculum is complete and works related to lab set up of ASUs Interim Campus is under progress.- Bid document for

Digital Campus platform has been prepared and is under review by a committee formed by ASU; it is expected that report from the committee will be received on or before 31st Mar'24.-ASU started interviewing candidates for 22 faculty and non-faculty staff members posts in late December 2023. Till now 5 faculties, 8 Junior and Senior instructors, 1 Deputy Registrar and 1 Accountant have joined ASU. Appointment letter for the post of Deputy Controller of Examination has been issued and the incumbent is expected to join latest by 31st Mar'24. Recruitment process for the posts of 3 Professors, 1 System Administrator, 1 Asst. Librarian and 1 Administrative officer is under progress and likely to be completed by 31st May'24. Construction of ASU campus, facilities, and the boundary wall has started. Registration for the Indian Green Building Councils assessment process for green campus and building rating is complete and implementation of guideline is under progress. Since May 2023, ASU Management and Operating System Development Consultants have been supporting the establishment of ASU's various organizational units, including the office of industry engagement and commercial ventures. Further progress to be assessed during subsequent review missions.-Partnership opportunities with internationally renowned institutions and industry/employers are being explored. -Activities to commence in July 2024 from the interim campus and in June 2026 from the main campus.

Geographical Location

Assam

Safeguard Categories

Environment

B

Involuntary Resettlement

C

Indigenous Peoples

B

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects

Environmental impacts of civil works (output 2) are likely to be insignificant. The initial environmental examination reports and environmental management plans (EMP) have been disclosed on ADB website. Contractors will develop a health and safety plan which includes COVID-19 prevention guidelines. Potentially affected persons were consulted, and their concerns will be addressed through the implementation of EMP. The Assam Skill Development Mission (ASDM) will establish a grievance redress mechanism. ASDMs environmental management capacity has been developed during project preparation and will be strengthened during project implementation.

Involuntary Resettlement

Due diligence confirmed that no land will be acquired permanently or temporarily, from a person, household, business, or community; and that all civil works will take place on the government-owned land allotted for ASU which is free from encumbrance. Any portion of the land that would trigger involuntary resettlement will be excluded.

Indigenous Peoples

Assam was home to 3.88 million scheduled tribe people who accounted for 12.4% of the total population (2011 Census). The project would not cause adverse impacts on

the scheduled tribe population. Scheduled tribe youth and adults will have access to skills education and training, which would enhance their prospect of getting higher-paying, decent jobs. Findings from consultations have been incorporated into the project design. The Assam Skill Development Mission (ASDM)s capacity to manage indigenous peoples safeguards is adequate and will be enhanced during project implementation. An indigenous peoples plan with measures to improve access to skills education and training, career development services has been disclosed on ADB website.

Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design

Through workshops, meetings, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions, key stakeholders, including relevant government agencies, communities surrounding the Assam Skill University, prospective students and parents, industries and enterprises, trainers and faculty members of technical and vocational education and training institutions, have been consulted on the project design.

During Project Implementation

Project information will be communicated through ADB's and government's websites, workshops and meetings, training, seminars, promotional and outreach activities, ASU's brand materials, and mass media in accordance with the requirements of ADB's information disclosure policy. The Assam Skill University (ASU) will develop public relations and marketing strategy to establish an ASU brand, reach out to prospective students, and attract industry and institutional partners and investors (output 1). Promotional and outreach activities for student recruitment will also be conducted regularly. The development of skills education and training programs will involve TVET and higher education institutional and industry partners (output 3). Industry associations will be also involved through workshops and partnership agreements in the processing of establishing, designing, and delivering skills education and training programs. ASU will share and disseminate resources, good practices, and lessons developed under the project with TVET and higher education institutions in Assam, the other states, and neighboring countries (output 5). The project management unit (PMU) established by the Assam Skill Development Mission (ASDM) will coordinate stakeholder communication activities under the project.

Business Opportunities

Consulting Services

To be determined

Procurement

To be determined

Contact

Responsible ADB Officer

Manikpuri, Praveen Kumar

Responsible ADB Department

Sectors Group

Responsible ADB Division

Human and Social Development Sector Office (SG-HSD)
 Executing Agencies
Skill, Employment and Entrepreneurship Department

Timetable

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Concept Clearance | 17 Dec 2020 |
| Fact Finding | 03 Mar 2021 to 25 Mar 2021 |
| MRM | 17 May 2021 |
| Approval | 13 Dec 2021 |
| Last Review Mission | - |
| Last PDS Update | 10 Apr 2024 |

Funding

Loan 4166-IND

Milestones

| Approval | Signing Date | Effectivity Date | Closing | | |
|-------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|---------|--------|
| | | | Original | Revised | Actual |
| 13 Dec 2021 | 17 Dec 2021 | 18 Feb 2022 | 31 Dec 2027 | - | - |

Financing Plan

| Total (Amount in US\$ million) | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Project Cost | 140.00 |
| ADB | 112.00 |
| Counterpart | 28.00 |
| Cofinancing | 0.00 |

Loan Utilization

| | Date | ADB | Others | Net Percentage |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------|--------|----------------|
| Cumulative Contract Awards | 24 Jul 2024 | 43.67 | 0.00 | 39% |
| Cumulative Disbursements | 24 Jul 2024 | 11.79 | 0.00 | 11% |

TA 6875-IND

Milestones

| Approval | Signing Date | Effectivity Date | Closing | | |
|-------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|--------|
| | | | Original | Revised | Actual |
| 13 Dec 2021 | 31 Dec 2021 | 31 Dec 2021 | 31 Dec 2024 | 31 Dec 2026 | - |

Financing Plan/TA Utilization

| ADB | Cofinancing | Counterpart | | | | Total |
|------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|--------|--------------|
| | | Gov | Beneficiaries | Project Sponsor | Others | |
| 150,000.00 | 1,000,000.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,150,000.00 |

Cumulative Disbursements

| Date | Amount |
|-------------|------------|
| 24 Jul 2024 | 256,932.28 |

Status of Covenants

| Category | Sector | Safeguards | Social | Financial | Economic | Others |
|----------|----------------|--------------|--------|--------------|----------|--------------|
| Rating | Unsatisfactory | Satisfactory | - | Satisfactory | - | Satisfactory |

Project Page <https://www.adb.org/projects/53277-002/main>

Request for Information <http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=53277-002>

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