Nepal: Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Development Project (formerly Preparing the ICT Public Service Delivery Project)

Project Name: Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Development Project (formerly Preparing the ICT Public Service Delivery Project)

Project Number: 38347-012

Country: Nepal

Project Status: Closed

Project Type / Modality of Assistance: Technical Assistance

Source of Funding / Amount: TA 4833-NEP: Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Development Project (formerly Preparing the ICT Public Service Delivery Project) - Japan Special Fund - US$ 600,000.00

Strategic Agendas:
- Inclusive economic growth

Drivers of Change:
- Governance and capacity development
- Knowledge solutions

Sector / Subsector:
- Information and communication technology - ICT industries and ICT-enabled services - ICT strategy and policy, and capacity development

Gender Equity and Mainstreaming: Some gender elements

Description:
The objective of the TA is to help the Government prepare an investment project that will support economic growth and reduce poverty, including in remote rural areas, by improving ICT accessibility and developing e-government applications in accordance with the road map to be identified by the e-government master plan. The TA will also help improve the legal, regulatory, and institutional framework to expand ICT accessibility and implement selected e-government applications, as well as develop institutional and human technical capacity in managing ICT infrastructure and operating e-government package. TA outputs will include (i) an investment plan for improving ICT accessibility in remote rural areas; (ii) design of selected e-government applications; (iii) a legal, regulatory, and institutional framework to expand ICT accessibility and implement selected e-government applications; (iv) institutional and human resource development programs, and (v) a feasibility assessment of the investment project package.

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy:
Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the region with a population of about 24 million people scattered throughout remote mountainous villages. Several structural factors hindering the country's attempts at development include: (i) the difficult terrain of a mountainous, landlocked country, (ii) low levels of physical infrastructure resulting in many remote areas without connectivity to the rest of the country, and (iii) lack of good governance. An overall level of telephone density for both fixed and cellular services is low. Many villages do not have access to telecoms services. Broadcasting services are not available to all villages. Information and communications technology (ICT) services are limited to major urban areas. The decentralization of economic activities away from Kathmandu Valley is hampered by the lack of basic infrastructure and poor communications system. With these constraints, Nepal has a huge potential to take full advantage of ICT, as it allows distribution of, and access to, information at no cost difference regardless of different spatial distances. Particularly in Nepal, the benefits of e-government will be far more extensive, especially compared with its networking cost. A majority of people living in remote areas could be empowered by ICT to gain access to public services at as affordable a price as enjoyed by people in Kathmandu Valley.

Impact:

Project Outcome

Description of Outcome

Progress Toward Outcome

Implementation Progress

Description of Project Outputs

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

Geographical Location: Nepal

Safeguard Categories

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Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects

Involuntary Resettlement

Indigenous Peoples
Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design
During Project Implementation

Business Opportunities

Consulting Services
The TA will be implemented over 6 months, commencing from July 2006. Individual consultants will be recruited to provide a total input of 16 person-months of international and 34 person-months of domestic consultants in accordance with ADB’s Guidelines on the Use of Consultants and other arrangements satisfactory to ADB on the engagement of domestic consultants. The expertise required for international consultants will be (i) team leader and e-government specialist (6 person-months); (ii) ICT technical specialist (4 person-months); (iii) e-center specialist (3 person-months); and (iv) project economist (3 person-months). The expertise required for domestic consultants will be (i) public administration specialist (6 person-months); (ii) reengineering specialist (6 person-months); (iii) ICT engineer (2 persons, 4 person-months each); (iv) project analyst (2 persons, 3 person-months each); (v) social development specialist (4 person-months); and (vi) legal/governance specialist (4 person-months). All consultants will provide assistance to ADB missions for processing the proposed project loan, including the loan fact-finding and appraisal missions.

Procurement TBD

Responsible ADB Officer
Lee, Dong Kyu

Responsible ADB Department
South Asia Department

Responsible ADB Division
Transport and Communications Division, SARD

Executing Agencies
High Level Commission for Information Technology
Mr. Saroj Devkota
Singhadurbar, Kathmandu, Nepal

Timetable

Concept Clearance 07 Oct 2004
Fact Finding 27 Mar 2006 to 30 Mar 2006
MRM -
Approval 30 Aug 2006
Last Review Mission -
PDS Creation Date 28 Feb 2006
Last PDS Update 30 Jan 2010

TA 4833-NEP

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