China, People's Republic of: Guangxi Baise Vocational Education Development Project

Project Name: Guangxi Baise Vocational Education Development Project  
Project Number: 47009-002  
Country: China, People's Republic of  
Project Status: Active  
Project Type / Modality of Assistance: Loan  
Source of Funding / Amount: Loan 3215-PRC: Guangxi Baise Vocational Education Development  
Ordinary capital resources  
US$ 50.00 million

Strategic Agendas:  
- Inclusive economic growth  
- Regional integration

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

Sector / Subsector: Education - Technical and vocational education and training

Gender Equity and Mainstreaming: Effective gender mainstreaming

Description: The project will support the PRC’s Twelfth Five-Year Plan, 2011-2015, which prioritizes developing high-quality human resources and accelerating educational reform, including reform of TVET. The project is aligned with ADB’s country partnership strategy for PRC. It conforms to ADB’s Education Policy and education sector strategies.

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy:  
Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region (GZAR) is one of the 12 less-developed provinces and autonomous regions in the western part of the People’s Republic of China (PRC). Baise Municipality is one of the 18 national poverty areas of the PRC, with 10 of its 12 counties registered as national poverty alleviation counties. Seven ethnic minority groups make up 80% of the population of Baise municipality. The municipality is the largest prefecture in Guangxi. Most of the terrain (95.4%) of Baise is mountainous making social and economic development difficult to achieve.

During the Eleventh Five-Year Plan, Baise became a new economic growth pole with its four base industries: aluminum processing, agriculture, tourism, and regional trade and logistics center. Located close to the border with Vietnam, Baise is an important gateway to countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS). Increased investment has led to year on year growth of 25.2% but despite the economic growth and Baise’s role in regional cooperation, future development is constrained by lack of a skilled workforce at all levels. Baise Municipal Government (BMG) currently projects a shortage of more than 80,000 employees particularly in the base industries.

To address the skills shortage, Baise’s Twelfth Five-Year Plan has identified human resources development as one of the key areas for improvement. The plan focuses on development of a multilevel technical vocational education system, which links the resources and capabilities of university, and higher, secondary, and short-term migrant technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions to improve quality, extend access, and ensure that a multilevel pool of talent is created. The plan also highlights developing human resources that will not be constrained by entry level or low skilled work prospects. This will be achieved through improved partnerships with industries, development of internationally and nationally recognized certification programs, and a multilevel TVET educational systems, which will provide students with clear pathways into the workforce. These objectives are in line with national strategies. The development of TVET is one of the priorities under the government’s Twelfth Five-Year Plan, and the National Long-term Strategy on Education (2010-2020) aiming for greater education investment identifies TVET development as one of the top 10 priorities, and sets out TVET targets/objectives to be achieved by 2020.

Baise University is a full-time undergraduate institution that also offers vocational education. It currently has two campuses, and sponsors the Baise Vocational School (BVS), which is the designated vocational training institute for the Baise Human Resources and Social Security, and Baise Finance Bureau. BVS runs a secondary vocational education program in seven majors and short-term training programs for migrant workers. The proposed project seeks to develop a multilevel TVET system among these institutions to improve quality, access, and responsiveness to industry and social development needs.

Impact: Economic development and industrial transformation of Baise municipality

Implementation Progress:

Since the project was declared effective in 6 July 2015, there has been good progress in the implementation arrangements and procurement for the project. The project management office (PMO) staff are in place and the imprest account have been created. All five civil works contracts have been awarded and 3 of 5 consulting packages have been awarded. The first contract for civil works (C02: Student dormitory B1, B2 and B3) under phase II has started in 2015, three contracts have been contracted in 2016 (C01: Site utilities, site development and slope protection; C04: Gym and Sports facilities, and C05: Library, Chemistry and Biology, Physics, Electronic and Math), and contract C03: Business, Political and Law, Art and Education, Administration, Chinese and Foreign language was awarded in 2017.

Three consulting contracts have been awarded: (i) C54: Project Implementation Start-Up Support was awarded to Mr. Yang Ze and mobilized on 30 July 2015; (ii) C52: Project Implementation Management Support was awarded to Helison Information Consulting Co., Ltd. with contract signed on 30 June 2016 and ADB approval given on 15 July 2016; and (iii) C51: Multilevel TVET Capacity Building and Innovation was awarded to ET Group International Pty. Ltd. with contract signed on 24 October 2016 and ADB approval given on 8 November 2016.

Two 2 consulting contracts (C53 and C55), and 2 other-contracts (GS1 and GS2) remain. Timely preparation and advertisement of remaining packages were advised to ensure project completes on schedule.

Loan inception mission was fielded on 23-27 November 2015 and review missions were fielded on 7-10 February 2017, 13-17 November 2017 (midterm review), 22-23 March 2018, 18-21 September 2018, and 25-28 June 2019. The next review mission will be fielded by March 2020.
Description of Project Outputs
TVET quality improved and capacity developed
Chengbi campus constructed and environmental sustainability promoted
TVET innovation and relevance promoted
Project implementation management

Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)
1. The progress of this component has been delayed. The consulting firm for multilevel TVET capacity development and innovation was mobilized in December 2016 and has made limited progress until March 2018. The process of developing standards in consultation with industry has commenced and some preliminary work on new curriculum. Trainings have been organized in 2017.

2. Phase I of Chengbi new campus (domestic funds) have been completed in 2016. More than 7,000 students have moved in and are attending classes. The first ADB funded contract for civil works under phase II (C02: Student dormitory B1, B2 and B3) has started in 2015 and two contracts started in Q2 2016 (C01: Site utilities, site development and slope protection and C04: Gym and sports facilities). The two remaining contracts were awarded in Q2 2017 (C03: Administrative Building, Chinese and Foreign Language Department Building, Business School Building, Political and Law Department Building, Art and Education Science Department Building, and C05: Library, Physics and Electronics, and Math Department Building and Biochemical Building).

3. Delays in TVET consultant selection, changes and problems in consultant leadership and lack of engagement by BU leadership resulted in slow progress for this output. Efforts are underway to engage with local industry to better understand need, and to reflect those needs into the new curriculum.

4. PMO functioning and staffed with 12 people. Imprest account established and request for initial advance submitted to PRCM on 27 Nov 2015.

Geographical Location

Safeguard Categories

| Environment | B |
| Involuntary Resettlement | C |
| Indigenous Peoples | B |

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects
Preliminary safeguards' categorizations are environment (B), involuntary resettlement (C), and indigenous peoples (B).

Involuntary Resettlement
Preliminary safeguards' categorizations are environment (B), involuntary resettlement (C), and indigenous peoples (B).

Indigenous Peoples
Preliminary safeguards' categorizations are environment (B), involuntary resettlement (C), and indigenous peoples (B).

Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design
Project information will be communicated through public consultation, information disclosure mechanism in ADB's and government's website, meetings, interviews, focus group discussions, and community consultation meetings, in accordance with ADB’s requirements of information disclosure policy.

During Project Implementation

Responsible ADB Officer
Eisuke Tajima

Responsible ADB Department
East Asia Department

Responsible ADB Division
Urban and Social Sectors Division, EARD

Executing Agencies
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Timetable

| Concept Clearance | 04 Sep 2013 |
| Fact Finding | 01 Jul 2014 to 11 Jul 2014 |
| MRM | 22 Aug 2014 |
| Approval | 08 Dec 2014 |
| Last Review Mission | - |
| Last PDS Update | 27 Sep 2019 |

Loan 3215-PRC

| Approval | Signing Date | Effectivity Date | Closing |
| 08 Dec 2014 | 19 Mar 2015 | 06 Jul 2015 | 30 Jun 2020 |

<p>| Financing Plan | Loan Utilization |
| Project Cost Total (Amount in US$ million) | 103.54 |
| Cumulative Contract Awards | 103.54 |
| ADB | 50.00 |
| 08 Dec 2014 | 41.18 |
| 82% |
| Counterpart | 53.54 |
| Cumulative Disbursements | 53.54 |
| Cofinancing | 0.00 |
| 08 Dec 2014 | 37.09 |
| 74% |</p>
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