China, People's Republic of: Technical and Vocational Education and Training Management Capacity Building in Hunan

**Project Name**: Technical and Vocational Education and Training Management Capacity Building in Hunan

**Project Number**: 47032-001

**Country**: China, People's Republic of

**Project Status**: Closed

**Project Type / Modality of Assistance**: Technical Assistance

**Source of Funding / Amount**: TA B462-PRC: Technical and Vocational Education and Training Management Capacity Building in Hunan

**Technical Assistance Special Fund**

**Source of Funding / Amount**: US$ 350,000.00

**Strategic Agendas**: Inclusive economic growth

**Drivers of Change**: Governance and capacity development

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

**Gender Equity and Mainstreaming**:

**Description**: At the request of the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) during the country programming mission in December 2012, technical assistance (TA) for strengthening management capacity of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) in Hunan was included in the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) 2013 nonlending program. ADB fielded a TA reconnaissance mission in June 2013, during which agreement was reached with the Hunan Education Department (HED) on the TA's impact, outcome, outputs, costs and financing, implementation arrangements, and outline terms of reference for consulting services.

**Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy**: Strengthening human resources by developing TVET is a key priority of the government’s Twelfth Five-Year Plan, 2011-2015. In 2010, with approval of the National Long-Term Strategy on Education, 2010-2020, the central government identified the expansion of TVET as the main way to build a more skilled workforce. A major challenge in this effort is to reform the TVET system so that it aligns more closely with the demands of the country’s economic and social development goals.

Hunan is a less-developed province in the south-central part of the PRC. It has a population of 72 million. The province’s economy is being transformed by the central government's policy of geographic rebalancing, which seeks to expand economic growth from the PRC's coastal regions toward its less-developed inland provinces. This effort has led to Hunan’s emergence as an important industrial base that requires a large labor force with a wide range of skills. In 2011, demand for such skilled workers exceeded supply in Hunan, with manufacturing generating the greatest need. The province needs to make its labor force more competitive and to foster skills-intensive growth that is driven by innovation. What is lacking in Hunan, however, is the technical knowledge needed within the provincial government, its agencies, and the TVET system to fully implement the PRC’s National Long-Term Strategy on Education.

To develop a modern TVET system, the provincial government, the HED, and the TVET institutions and stakeholders need to be able to assess, assure, and certify the quality of the TVET being delivered in the province and to use these assessments to make improvements and align the training and education provided with industry needs. The institutional standards needed for quality assurance are currently lacking, and guidelines for monitoring key indicators have to be developed at the provincial level to measure the performance and promote the accountability of TVET institutions. Hunan pioneered skills assessment in the PRC in 2010 but needs to enhance its assessment methods and disseminate knowledge about skills testing across the province.

Coastal provinces such as Guangdong and Jiangsu and the large southwestern PRC municipality of Chongqing have done more to reform TVET since the Eleventh Five-Year Plan was announced in 2006 than the less-developed provinces in the PRC’s western and central regions, where progress has been moderate. Ningbo City in Jiangsu Province has developed and implemented the country’s first regulatory framework for industry school partnerships by offering tax incentives to enterprises that participate in TVET, establishing a board of governors to improve interagency coordination in TVET, setting up a training fund, and expanding on-the-job training. Chongqing, a centrally administered municipality has spearheaded reforms to strengthen quality improvement in TVET. Potential exists to replicate these good practices in Hunan and elsewhere within the framework of a PRC government initiative to twin eastern and western provinces to facilitate the sharing of experience, lessons, and best practices in TVET development.

The TA aims to strengthen the TVET management capacity in Hunan, address its current weaknesses, and work toward achieving the goals of the provincial Twelfth Five-Year Plan. After the TA was included in ADB's 2013 nonlending program, the HED prepared a first proposal and held consultative meetings with ADB to design the TA concept. The TA will (i) develop recommendations for strengthening quality improvement mechanisms at the TVET institution level; (ii) make recommendations for improving skills testing and certification, including the development of assessment standards in three priority fields of study; (iii) conduct policy research and present recommendations for monitoring key performance indicators in TVET; and (iv) develop technical guidelines for establishing an east west partnership in TVET between Hunan and an eastern province, including assessing and defining policy, operational, institutional, and technical aspects of such a partnership. Documents will be reviewed, detailed consultations with relevant stakeholders conducted, field visits undertaken, and case studies examined to produce the TA outputs.

The TA will complement ADB’s TVET demonstration project in Hunan by ensuring that there will be strong, concurrent, linked management capacity-building activities at a senior management level in the HED, TVET institutions, and relevant industry advisory groups as the demonstration undertaking goes forward. The TA will gather and consolidate information about national developments in TVET in the PRC, and the TA findings will be disseminated at the provincial and national levels through workshops and policy briefs. This capacity building through information dissemination for senior management officials will be essential for strengthening ownership of the initiatives under the proposed demonstration project to improve TVET industry linkages and match TVET programs with market demand.

**Impact**: Strengthened capacity of the government and other stakeholders to manage the TVET system in Hunan Province.

**Description of Outcome**: Improved TVET management in Hunan through consideration by HED of the recommendations and guidelines prepared by the TA.
Progress Toward Outcome
The TA was approved on 26 Sep 2013 and became effective on 18 Oct 2013. The national consulting firm was mobilized on 30 Jun 2014. An inception mission was fielded on 17-19 Sep 2014 to discuss TA implementation progress, including a workshop which focused on TVET quality assurance, TVET skills testing certificates, TVET performance monitoring and evaluation, and East-West (National) Partnerships.

Implementation Progress

Description of Project Outputs
1. A review of TVET quality assurance in Hunan completed.
2. Technical guidelines for strengthening an institution-level TVET quality improvement framework developed.
3. Recommendations made for improving skills testing and certification in three priority fields of study, including development of assessment standards.
4. Technical guidelines developed for an east west partnership.
5. Recommendations made for monitoring key performance indicators in TVET.

Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)
Inception report from the consulting firm was submitted on 12 Jan 2015. Interim report with main recommendations and specific activities or actions is under preparation. The draft Quality Assurance framework has been prepared but still needs fine tuning in consultation with HED and pilot institutions. The following activities are being planned for Q4 2015 to Q2 2016: pilot implementation by three pilot institutions, conduct survey on the results of the pilot program, a workshop to present findings/results of the pilot, draft final report and final report.

Geographical Location
Hunan

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects

Indigenous Peoples

Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation
During Project Design
Hunan Provincial Government (EA), Hunan Education Department, Hunan Department of Science and Technology, Hunan Department of Human Resources and Social Security, among others were consulted during project design.

During Project Implementation
Policy dialogue will be maintained with the government and project-specific issues will be taken up with government counterparts during review missions.

Business Opportunities

Consulting Services
The consultants will be engaged by ADB through a firm in accordance with the Guidelines on the Use of Consultants (2010, as amended from time to time), based on the quality of the proposal (80%) and the cost (20%) of the services to be provided (the quality- and cost-based selection method) using the simplified technical proposal procedure. The consultants will have expertise in the following: (i) TVET quality assurance, (ii) skills testing and certification, (iii) TVET performance monitoring and accountability, and (iv) east-west partnerships.

Responsible ADB Officer
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Executing Agencies
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Timetable

TA 8462-PRC

Milestones

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<td>26 Sep 2013</td>
<td>18 Oct 2013</td>
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Financing Plan/TA Utilization

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Project Page
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