## Regional: Support to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Economic Community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Support to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Economic Community</th>
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<tr>
<td>Project Number</td>
<td>50172-002</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Regional</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Status</td>
<td>Active</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Type / Modality of Assistance</td>
<td>Technical Assistance</td>
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| Source of Funding / Amount | TA 9229-REG: Support to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Economic Community  
Technical Assistance Special Fund  
US$ 2.00 million |
| | TA 9229-REG: Support to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Economic Community (Supplementary)  
Technical Assistance Special Fund  
US$ 3.00 million |

### Strategic Agendas
- Inclusive economic growth
- Regional integration

### Drivers of Change
- Governance and capacity development
- Knowledge solutions
- Private sector development

### Sector / Subsector
- Finance - Finance sector development
- Industry and trade - Trade and services
- Public sector management - Economic affairs management

### Gender Equity and Mainstreaming
- No gender elements

### Description
**Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy**

**Impact**

A more dynamic and competitive region with single market and production base achieved

### Project Outcome
**Description of Outcome**

Implementation of the AEC commitments in priority areas improved

**Progress Toward Outcome**

Implementing comprehensive competition policies and regulatory reforms in order to meet AEC targets is a priority. Support is being provided to the newly established Philippines Competition Commission to implement competition policy. Support has been provided to Cambodia to help establish an online registry portal at Cambodia’s Ministry of Industry and Handicrafts as part of the ASEAN SME Action Plan. The TA also supported the Regional Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) Conference which was held last 12-13 September 2017, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The conference aimed to bring together leading RIA experts across the region to share lessons learnt and practical insights on the experience of implementing RIA in different countries; build a foundation of strong and sustainable RIA expertise and networks across the region; explore collaborative initiatives; and enhance the RIA national rollout program in Cambodia.

### Implementation Progress
**Description of Project Outputs**

- Action plans and/or roadmaps to participate in the AEC prepared
- Capacity to implement the AEC Commitments in priority areas developed
- Monitoring and Evaluation of AEC implementation at the country level strengthened

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

- Competition Policy experts were engaged to assist the Philippine Competition Commission in their review of issues related to the power and energy sectors, mergers and acquisitions, abuse on market dominance, quasi-judicial litigation and market studies.
- Forums on Fostering Universal Health Care through PPPs and Renewable Energy and Waste-to-Energy in the Philippines were organized last February and August 2019, respectively, to highlight the importance of PPP collaboration in the Health and Energy sectors.
- Consulting firm for Labor Market Activation pilots (Jobstart Indonesia and Employer-led Learning Network) commenced services in June 2019 and activities are on-going. Likewise, the Roadmap for SDG Indonesia will be launched in early-October 2019.

### Geographical Location

Regional

### Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

#### Environmental Aspects

Involuntary Resettlement

Indigenous Peoples

#### Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design

In the participating countries, the ADB missions met a number of ministries, departments and/or agencies with important roles in implementing the AEC, such as finance, commerce, trade, investment, planning, competition and skilled labor.
During Project Implementation

The TA amount was increased from $2 million to $5 million, and the scope of the TA has been broadened to also cover the following: Enterprise-Led Learning Network for PHI, Public-Private Partnership for PHI, Achieving Sustainable Development Goals for INO, and regional innovative financing.

The member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are implementing the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2025 to improve market integration and competitiveness. The ADB is supporting Cambodia, Lao PDR, the Philippines and Indonesia on this process through a RETA. ADB and the PCC meet regularly to discuss ADB support to implementation of competition policy, as one of the priority areas under the AEC. The RIA conference also help to discuss good regulatory practice with relevant stakeholders. ADB has also entered into a knowledge partnership agreement with OECD to undertake a labor market study in Indonesia to support employment and economic development within the context of the ASEAN Economic Community; and to organize capacity building workshops on economic techniques for staff of the Philippine Competition Commission on mergers, abuse of dominance position and cartel detection.

Business Opportunities

Consulting Services

One consulting firm:
  - to provide services on strategy development, impact studies, and monitoring and evaluation.
  1. 4 international consultants, 24 person-months;
  2. 18 national consultants, 39 person-months
Individual consultants:
  - to provide services related to competition policy and RIA
  1. 5 international, 28 person-months;
  2. 6 national, 40 person-months

Responsible ADB Officer

Cristina Lozano

Responsible ADB Department

Southeast Asia Department

Responsible ADB Division

Public Management, Financial Sector and Trade Division, SERD

Executing Agencies

Asian Development Bank
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550, Philippines

Timetable

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<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Approval</th>
<th>Signing Date</th>
<th>Effectivity Date</th>
<th>Closing</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 Nov 2016</td>
<td>10 Nov 2016</td>
<td>31 Dec 2020</td>
<td>31 Dec 2022</td>
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TA 9229-REG

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