China, People's Republic of: Accelerating the Reform of Application-Oriented Undergraduate Programs at Local Universities in Yunnan Province

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<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Accelerating the Reform of Application-Oriented Undergraduate Programs at Local Universities in Yunnan Province</th>
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<td>Project Number</td>
<td>50357-001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>China, People’s Republic of</td>
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<td>Project Status</td>
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<td>Project Type / Modality of Assistance</td>
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<td>Source of Funding / Amount</td>
<td>TA 9526-PRC: Accelerating the Reform of Application-Oriented Undergraduate Programs at Local Universities in Yunnan Province</td>
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Objectives:

The proposed knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) will support the development of policy frameworks for accelerating the reform of application-oriented undergraduate programs at local universities.

Strategic Agendas

- Inclusive economic growth
- Regional integration

Drivers of Change

- Governance and capacity development
- Knowledge solutions
- Partnerships
- Private sector development

Sector / Subsector

- Education - Tertiary

Gender Equity and Mainstreaming

- No gender elements

Description

The proposed knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) will support the development of policy frameworks for accelerating the reform of application-oriented undergraduate programs at local universities. These challenges and issues are compounded by lack of policy frameworks at the national and provincial levels for different types of universities (public, private, independent schools and institutes subordinate to universities) which are coordinated with other policy areas, to accelerate the reform of application-oriented undergraduate programs at local universities.

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy

The PRC's higher education system, the largest in the world in terms of number of higher education institutions (HEIs) and students has been growing rapidly, contributing to remarkable economic growth. Yet as the economy undergoes fundamental transformation and its growth has slowed, structural issues with the PRC's higher education system have become more prominent. These include homogenization of colleges and universities, difficulties of graduates with finding employment, and insufficient capacity of HEIs for innovation and entrepreneurship. Against this background, the Ministry of Education issued guidelines for provincial governments to rationalize the higher education system by establishing a system for classifying HEIs, and to transform some local colleges and universities to offer application-oriented undergraduate programs which integrate discipline-oriented education and professionally oriented practical training through university enterprise cooperation and meet the needs of local socioeconomic development. At the same time, research universities were guided to enhance global competitiveness and state-of-the-art disciplines.

At present, all local universities are guided to implement the reform of application-oriented undergraduate programs in Yunnan Province. Despite achievements, the pilot reforms indicate challenges and issues, including:

- difficulties with adapting professionally oriented majors and clusters (i.e., groups of majors) fully in line with the needs of local industries due in part to time lag between the pace of industry transformation and upgrading and that of curriculum, teaching force, and training materials and facility development and upgrading, and to insufficient university enterprise cooperation;
- inadequate university entrance exam system based on discipline-oriented majors and graduation exam system based on thesis, as opposed to the emphasis on professionally oriented practical training in application-oriented undergraduate programs;
- underdeveloped capacity for training human resources to promote cooperation with Southeast Asian countries and implement the Belt and Road Initiative;
- limited public funds to develop practical training, innovation, and entrepreneurship facilities;
- constraints on the autonomy of local universities, particularly that of public universities to seek funding other than from the government;

These challenges and issues are compounded by lack of policy frameworks at the national and provincial levels for different types of universities (public, private, independent schools and institutes subordinate to universities) which are coordinated with other policy areas, to accelerate the reform of application-oriented undergraduate programs at local universities.

Impact

Higher education system in Yunnan Province in support of socioeconomic development and regional cooperation rationalized

Project Outcome

Reform of application-oriented undergraduate programs at local universities widely implemented
**Progress Toward Outcome**

To be reviewed in 2020.

**Implementation Progress**

**Description of Project Outputs**

Status of the reform of application-oriented undergraduate programs at local universities assessed

Good practices and lessons learned on the reform of application-oriented undergraduate programs documented and disseminated

Policy recommendations on accelerating the reform of application-oriented undergraduate programs at local universities in line with local industry transformation and upgrading plans developed

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

The consulting firm was fielded on 1 September 2018. Methodology and tools for assessing the status of the reform of application-oriented undergraduate programs at 31 local universities were finalized in early March 2019. Field survey team is expected to be mobilized towards the end of March 2019.

**Geographical Location**

Yunnan

**Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects**

**Environmental Aspects**

**Involuntary Resettlement**

**Indigenous Peoples**

**Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation**

During Project Design

Relevant government agencies and some of local universities participated in the design of the TA.

During Project Implementation

31 local universities in Yunnan province will be consulted and actively participating in data and information collection and analysis and development of case studies.

**Business Opportunities**

Consulting Services

A consulting firm (international, 6 person-months; national, 13 person-months) has been recruited to design and conduct policy-oriented studies on the reform of application-oriented undergraduate programs at local universities. The firm was selected using the quality- and cost-based selection method, with a quality-cost ratio of 90:10 and simplified technical proposals. Output-based, lumpsum contract with a provision of fixed out-of-pocket expenditures was considered for the assignment.

**Responsible ADB Officer**

Asako Maruyama

**Responsible ADB Department**

East Asia Department

**Responsible ADB Division**

Urban and Social Sectors Division, EARD

**Executing Agencies**

Yunnan Provincial Department of Education

2 Xuefu Road, Kunming, Yunnan

Yunnan Provincial Finance Department Division of International Cooperation

Wuhuashan, Kunming Yunnan, Peoples Republic of China

**Timetable**

| Concept Clearance | 19 Apr 2018 |
| Fact Finding | 08 Mar 2018 to 12 Mar 2018 |
| Approval | 14 May 2018 |
| Last Review Mission | - |
| Last PDS Update | 28 Mar 2019 |

**TA 9526-PRC**

**Milestones**

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<th>Approval</th>
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**Financing Plan/TA Utilization**

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**Date Generated**

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