Regional: Pacific Information and Communication Technology Investment Planning and Capacity Development Facility- Phase 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Pacific Information and Communication Technology Investment Planning and Capacity Development Facility- Phase 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Number</td>
<td>50409-001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Regional; Cook Islands; Palau; Marshall Islands; Tonga; Vanuatu</td>
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<td>Project Status</td>
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<td>Project Type / Modality of Assistance</td>
<td>Technical Assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Source of Funding / Amount</td>
<td>TA 0024-REG: Pacific ICT Investment Planning and Capacity Development Facility - Phase 2</td>
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<tr>
<th>Strategic Agendas</th>
<th>Environmentally sustainable growth</th>
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<td>Inclusive economic growth</td>
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<td>Regional integration</td>
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<td>Drivers of Change</td>
<td>Governance and capacity development</td>
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<td>Knowledge solutions</td>
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<td>Partnerships</td>
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<td>Private sector development</td>
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<td>Information and communication technology - ICT industries and ICT-enabled services - ICT strategy and policy, and capacity development</td>
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The proposed knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) will address requests from several Pacific country governments seeking to strengthen their information and communication (ICT) capacities. The TA will support (i) advancing ICT policy and regulatory frameworks, (ii) ICT applications development, and (iii) adaptation of technology innovations and protection against cyber-crime. The initiative is a continuation of a similar TA program which successfully and efficiently addressed ICT infrastructure-related challenges for submarine cable projects.

The TA is included in the Pacific 2016-2018 Regional Operations Business Plan (ROBP) which outlines ICT applications for development of ICT-enabled services as key area of assistance. It is also listed in the current ROBP 2017-2019.

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy

The development of the ICT sector in the Pacific has come a long way in the last 10 years. The region is on an ICT adaptation path, and has overcome the initial hurdle of setting up effective infrastructure systems for the next phase of ICT engagements. While previously ICT adaptation was inhibited by limited quality of service and high costs of internet services, penetration rates have improved with the introduction of O3B's low orbiting satellite services and submarine cable systems, providing greater and more reliable bandwidths at lower costs. As private sector investments were difficult to attract due to small market sizes and lack of financial feasibility, a number of countries relied on development partners including ADB and the World Bank to support their fiber optic cable projects. With broadband infrastructure in place or expected to be in place in next five years, Pacific islands have to manage the changes involved in adapting technological advances. ICT policy and regulatory frameworks in most countries are at a nascent stage, if at all established, and require further support in order to mature. While isolated progress has been made in the adaptation of ICT applications recently, general utilization of services is often limited to casual end-users and basic communications, impeding progress on a larger scale. At the same time, the region is making efforts to achieve its development goals in other sectors like health, education and private sector development, while struggling with geographic remoteness and lack of access to economic markets abroad.

The TA seeks to ensure that the region receives support for essential ICT adaptations to tackle the issues described, and achieve its development outcomes more effectively.

Impact
Access to ICT increased (ADB Pacific Approach, 2016 2020)
Access to ICT applications for public service delivery improved

Description of Outcome
Cross-sectoral service delivery through use of ICT innovations improved

Progress Toward Outcome

Implementation Progress

Description of Project Outputs
ICT policy and regulatory framework supported
Development of ICT applications supported
Adoption of technology innovations and protection against cybercrime supported

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

Geographical Location
Cook Islands - Nation-wide; Marshall Islands - Nation-wide; Palau - Nation-wide; Tonga - Nation-wide; Vanuatu - Nation-wide

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects

Involuntary Resettlement
Indigenous Peoples
Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design
The subproject was approved on 16 March 2018.

During Project Implementation

Business Opportunities
Consulting Services
ADB will administer the TA cluster and will be responsible for consultant recruitment and procurement, in close consultation with the participating governments. ADB will seek concurrence from the participating governments for the recruitment of consultants. The government counterpart in each country will assist ADB in identifying the TA implementing agencies based on the scope of the requests. The implementing agency in each participating country, together with the consultants, will implement the TA.

Procurement
ADB will administer the TA cluster and will be responsible for consultant recruitment and procurement, in close consultation with the participating governments. ADB will seek concurrence from the participating governments for the recruitment of consultants. The government counterpart in each country will assist ADB in identifying the TA implementing agencies based on the scope of the requests.

Responsible ADB Officer
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Responsible ADB Department
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Responsible ADB Division
PATC
Executing Agencies
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Timetable
Concept Clearance
14 Aug 2017
Fact Finding
05 Jun 2017 to 09 Jun 2017
MRM
-
Approval
12 Sep 2017
Last Review Mission
-
Last PDS Update
27 Mar 2018

TA 0024-REG

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Project Page
https://www.adb.org/projects/50409-001/main

Request for Information
http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=50409-001

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