

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANTS**

1. A team of individual consultants will be engaged to support the implementation of the TA. Approximately 29 person-months of international and 66 person-months of national consulting services will be engaged during the technical assistance (TA) implementation period. The total indicative person-months allocation and terms of reference are set out below.

### **A. International Consultants: Individual**

2. **Economic Corridor Development Specialist** (two positions including a team leader, international, 17 person-months, intermittent). The consultants will conduct prefeasibility study, in close collaboration with the trade economist, to assess the potentials for economic corridor development (ECD) (i) between Shymkent and Tashkent cities with expansion to Turkestan-Tashkent oblasts; (ii) between Tashkent and Khujand cities with expansion to Tashkent-Sughd oblasts; and (iii) among Shymkent-Tashkent-Khujand cities with expansion to Turkestan-Tashkent-Sughd oblasts. The consultant should have at least a master's degree in economics, management, business or a related field and 15 years of relevant experience, preferably in ECD, including spatial economic planning and development. He and/or She should have good knowledge of local conditions of the countries covered under the study. In collaboration with the CAREC Unit, the specialist will carry out following responsibilities:

- (i) Conduct review of the literature on ECD in Asia and elsewhere, including on cross-border ECD and its role on economic development. Review ECD in Central Asia, current status, opportunities and challenges.
- (ii) Review the ECD related economic data and issues for spatial development between Shymkent-Tashkent cities and Turkestan-Tashkent oblasts, between Tashkent-Khujand cities and Tashkent-Sughd oblasts, and among Shymkent-Tashkent-Khujand cities and Turkestan-Tashkent-Sughd oblasts, including on cross-border trade, transport connectivity, tourism cooperation, etc.
- (iii) Assess the potential of ECD between the two pairs of cities and surrounding oblasts, and among the three cities and surrounding oblasts, with data and information gathered (including inputs from the trade economist), and identify possible sectors and/or areas and products to be synergized/integrated (e.g., through integrated/coordinated manufacturing/production value chain, economic and industrial clusters development), and measures to enhance complementarity for better integration of economic activities.
- (iv) Identify constraints, weak links, and gaps including infrastructure connectivity (e.g., cross-border facility, ICT), and policy environment (e.g., private sector investment) and related issues, and investment needs in developing such ECD, and how to address them.
- (v) Provide policy recommendations on the possible ECD among Shymkent-Tashkent-Khujand cities and surrounding Turkestan-Tashkent-Sughd oblasts in terms of (a) appropriate ECD modalities (e.g., bilateral or trilateral ECD) that fit the development context of the three cities and oblasts and sequencing if applicable; (b) institutional framework of the ECD with roles of different players/stakeholders outlined; (c) potential timelines for the ECD; and (d) possible linkage with the ongoing ABEC and the agricultural activities in the Fergana Valley to create wider benefits in Central Asia.
- (vi) Present the report to the governments of the three countries (including city and oblast level) and other stakeholders and solicit feedback for further improvement, as necessary.

- (vii) Undertake other related tasks as may be required by the ADB project team leader.

3. **Trade Economist** (9 person-months). The consultant will undertake a scoping study to analyze trade (goods and services) flows in Shymkent, Tashkent, and Khujand cities and Turkestan, Tashkent, and Sughd oblasts, and trade flows between Shymkent-Tashkent cities and Turkestan-Tashkent oblasts, and Tashkent-Khujand cities and Tashkent-Sughd oblasts. The trade analysis will identify complementarity and competitiveness of sectors and/or areas and products to fully exploit trade potentials between the two city pairs and oblast pairs. The consultant should have at least a master's degree in economics, international trade, or related field and have at least 15 years of relevant experience in international and regional (including cross-border) trade analysis. In collaboration with the CAREC Unit and closely working with the team leader, the trade economist will

- (i) Conduct review of literature on trade (goods and services) in Central Asia (with focus on Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan), including trade pattern, focus sectors and/or areas and products, trade routes, destinations, and other trade related aspects.
- (ii) Review trade (goods and services including informal trade) flows in Shymkent, Tashkent and Khujand cities and Turkestan, Tashkent and Sughd oblasts including trade pattern, focus sectors and/or areas and products, trade routes, destinations, and other trade related aspects.
- (iii) Collate trade data and information for Shymkent-Tashkent and Tashkent-Khujand cities and Turkestan-Tashkent and Tashkent-Sughd oblasts, as well as transit trade (including informal trade), from national statistics and sector-related authorities, and international sources (e.g., UN organizations) and trade related policies and regulations of the three countries, and other sources as necessary.
- (iv) Undertake consultations with government officials and other stakeholders of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan (including at trilateral city and oblast level) on trade related issues.
- (v) Undertake trade analysis using relevant analytical tools as necessary, and identify complementarity and competitiveness of sectors and/or areas and products for greater trade integration, as well as major constraints, gaps and weak links in terms of physical infrastructure connectivity/facilities and policy environment to fully exploit trade.
- (vi) Prepare a report summarizing the findings of the trade analysis, implications for ECD and policy recommendations.
- (vii) Present the report to governments of the three countries (including at trilateral city and oblast level) and other stakeholders and solicit feedback for further improvement, as necessary.
- (viii) Undertake other related tasks as may be required by the ADB project team leader.

4. **Economics and Copy Editor** (3 person-months, intermittent). The consultant(s) will edit the TA-supported publications. The consultant(s) should at least have a master's degree on economics, communications, or related field, and have 15 years of relevant experience with in-depth understanding on economic development and regional cooperation and integration (RCI) issues particularly in the CAREC context and strong communication skills. Under the supervision of the CAREC Unit, the consultant(s) will ensure that edited materials adhere to ADB style and usage and conform to high publication standards. The consultant(s) will:

- (i) Edit contents of the reports to be published under the TA.
- (ii) Examine the tables, figures, and charts in the publication to ensure data consistency within the report and suggest deletions and additions to ensure that the tables, figures, and charts are appropriate, and

- (iii) Edit articles and notes on ECD in Central Asia and other TA related themes and issues for international publications.
- (iv) Ensure that edited materials adhere to ADB style and usage and conform to high publication standards.

## **B. National Consultants: Individual**

5. **Research Assistant** (four positions, 48 person-months, intermittent). The three country-based and one ADB HQ based research assistants will provide necessary support and inputs to the international consultants and the CAREC Unit to facilitate TA implementation. The research assistant should have at least a bachelor's degree in economics, business, or a related field and at least 5 years of relevant experience, including in RCI related research. He and/or She should be familiar with developments in regional economic integration, particularly the CAREC Program. Under the supervision of the CAREC Unit and in close coordination with the international consultants under the TA, the research assistant will

- (i) Support the research activities of the international consultants, including undertaking review of literature and processing and analyzing data and other information.
- (ii) Help collect and verify data as needed.
- (iii) Assist the international consultants in reviewing the relevant studies, national policies, and regulations related to ECD, trade and related aspects.
- (iv) Assist the international consultants in arranging and conducting interviews with key government officials and other stakeholders.
- (v) Provide inputs and comments on the studies and reports.
- (vi) Assist in the conduct of the TA related missions (e.g., inception mission workshop), coordination meetings, consultation roundtables, and dissemination workshops).
- (vii) Help prepare meeting reports and other relevant documentation.
- (viii) Undertake other related tasks as may be required by the international consultants and the ADB project team leader.

6. **Project Coordinator** (18 person-months intermittent). The project coordinator will provide operations and administrative support to the project team. The consultant should have at least a bachelor's degree in economics, business, management or a related field and at least 5 years of relevant experience, particularly in project coordination preferably in international organizations, and be familiar with developments in regional economic integration particularly with respect to the CAREC Program, and ADB operations. The consultant will be based at the ADB Headquarters, Manila, Philippines. Under the supervision of the project team leader, the project coordinator will

- (i) Arrange meetings and other events and prepare material.
- (ii) Communicate with stakeholders, other consultants, resource persons, and concerned ADB staff in relation to the preparation of TA outputs.
- (iii) Prepare budgets, minutes of meetings, and study progress reports, and process payments.
- (iv) Coordinate logistical arrangements for meetings and other events.
- (v) Undertake other related tasks as may be required by the ADB project team leader.

**C. Other Consultants**

7. International and National Resource Persons (3 person-months). ADB may engage resource persons who are experts on RCI and ECD related sector and subsector topics for short periods to review studies and participate as presenters, facilitators and/or discussants in the related meetings and workshops.