

## TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANTS

1. To implement the Asian Development Bank (ADB) funded knowledge and support technical assistance TA, the Regional Cooperation and Integration Division (ERCI), Economic Research and Development Impact Department will require an estimated 27 person-months of international consulting inputs, 60 months of national consulting inputs, and 3 person-months of resource persons. The number of person-months is indicative. Lump sum payments and output-based contracts will be considered. The consultants will report to and be supervised by ERCI as TA supervising unit. Whenever possible, ERCI will also engage in collaborative research with other divisions and departments within ADB.

2. The TA will strengthen the understanding of the role and impact of regulatory regimes in the digital economy by enhancing awareness through research and development and capacity building activities. Digital regulatory environment underpins developing economies' capacity to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by digitalization while coherent and well-designed regulatory regimes are a necessary condition for the adoption and implementation of digital transformation policies, balancing risks and opportunities in the digital era. Even as digital technologies have increased ease in doing business and widened consumer choices, they also pose new risks to safety, privacy, and security. Legal and regulatory environments should keep up and adapt with the rapidly changing digital environment. Although there is growing awareness of the importance of regulatory regimes, both national and cross-national, their economic potential is not well understood. DMCs' adoption and alignment with international standards in cybersecurity, data privacy, and digital identity remains limited in the region, whereas other pillars of digital integration, including competition, procurement, cross-border data policies, foreign direct investment, intellectual property rights and technical standards, require further contemplation on their policy implications.

3. To respond to the aforementioned issues, ADB will require the services of consultants. The technical expertise and international and national consultant inputs are outlined in the table:

**Table: Summary of Key Deliverables and Consulting Service Requirements**

Major Deliverables (as per TA DMF)	Consultants Expertise	International Inputs (PM)	National Inputs (PM)
1. Study on horizontal digital cooperation	Digital Trade or Economist expert	3	12
2. In-depth sectoral study	Trade, sectoral or Economist expert	3	12
3. In-depth sectoral study	Trade, sectoral or Economist expert	3	12
4. Scoping study on tourism value chain and (SMEs) and digital skills	Digital Trade, SMEs or Economist expert	9	24
5. Dataset on digital trade development	Firm	9	
6. Analytical inputs, presenters	Resource persons	3	
Total		30	60

#### **TRADE or ECONOMIST EXPERT (International, 5 positions, 17 person-months)**

4. International consultants will be hired to support the development and research on the background studies on digital trade, regulatory frameworks, and tourism value chains. The consultant will have at least 7 years experience in the topics and its related fields. He/She must have a master's degree in trade, economics, law or related fields and be fluent in English. The scope of work will include:

- (i) Provide an assessment on the trends, policies, and current state in Asia and the Pacific;
- (ii) Identify gaps, issues, challenges, and areas for policy reform;
- (iii) Examine possible solutions using appropriate econometric and analytical tools;
- (iv) Provide policy recommendations as appropriate; and
- (v) Draft, revise, and finalize research paper.

#### **DIGITAL TRADE INTEGRATION EXPERT (Firm, single source selection; 9 person-months)**

5. The EUI currently maintains an open-access repository on digital regulatory frameworks in 123 countries. Their expertise will be tapped to produce and/or improve the dataset for Asia and Pacific economies. The institution has established institutional partnerships with different research institutions and international organizations and has the in-house expertise to deliver the desired output.

#### **SENIOR RESEARCH ANALYSTS (National, 4 positions, 58 person-months)**

6. National consultants will be hired to support the research for the background studies. The consultants should have a background in economics or law with strong analytical skills and proficiency in the use of statistical applications such as Stata and Eviews. A master's degree in economics or related fields would be an advantage. The scope of work will include:

- (ii) Collect and analyze study-related data and material;
- (iii) Prepare charts and tables;
- (iv) Draft write-ups of charts and tables;
- (v) Draft write-ups of assigned sections of the study;
- (vi) Prepare presentations and assist in the production of publications;
- (vii) Assist in the finalization of the study; and
- (viii) Perform other related tasks as may be required.

#### **ECONOMICS EDITOR (International, 1 position, 2 person-months)**

7. An economics editor will be hired to provide intermittent editing services for the knowledge products that will be produced under this TA.

#### **RESOURCE PERSONS (International, at least 6 positions, 3 person-months)**

8. Resource persons will be engaged for approximately 5 days each to provide analytical inputs, prepare and deliver presentations during the planned events of the TA. The resource persons will be distinguished experts or policymakers specializing in trade, law and other related issues to the digital economy.

9. The resource persons will perform the following tasks: (i) provide technical and analytical inputs to the TA's events; (ii) prepare and make presentations on the topics assigned to them; and (iii) moderate and facilitate discussion and exchanges of ideas among participants and other resource persons.