



Technical Assistance Report

Project Number: 50141-001
Policy and Advisory Technical Assistance (PATA)
June 2016

People's Republic of China: Study of the Belt and Road Initiative

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Asian Development Bank

CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

(as of 10 June 2016)

Currency unit	–	yuan (CNY)
CNY1.00	=	\$0.1524
\$1.00	=	CNY6.5630

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
BRI	–	Belt and Road Initiative
GMS	–	Greater Mekong Subregion
PRC	–	People's Republic of China
RCI	–	regional cooperation and integration
TA	–	technical assistance

NOTE

In this report, "\$" refers to US dollars.

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POLICY AND ADVISORY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AT A GLANCE

1. Basic Data		Project Number: 50141-001	
Project Name	Study of the Belt and Road Initiative	Department /Division	EARD/EAPF
Country	China, People's Republic of	Executing Agency	Development Research Center of the State Council
2. Sector	Subsector(s)	ADB Financing (\$ million)	
✓ Industry and trade	Industry and trade sector development		0.40
		Total	0.40
3. Strategic Agenda	Subcomponents	Climate Change Information	
Inclusive economic growth (IEG)	Pillar 2: Access to economic opportunities, including jobs, made more inclusive	Climate Change impact on the Project	Low
Regional integration (RCI)	Pillar 1: Cross-border infrastructure Pillar 2: Trade and investment Pillar 4: Other regional public goods		
4. Drivers of Change	Components	Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	
Knowledge solutions (KNS)	Knowledge sharing activities	No gender elements (NGE)	✓
Private sector development (PSD)	Public sector goods and services essential for private sector development		
5. Poverty Targeting		Location Impact	
Project directly targets poverty	Yes	Regional	High
Geographic targeting (TI-G)	Yes		
6. TA Category:	B		
7. Safeguard Categorization	Not Applicable		
8. Financing			
Modality and Sources		Amount (\$ million)	
ADB		0.40	
Policy and advisory technical assistance: Technical Assistance Special Fund		0.40	
Cofinancing		0.00	
None		0.00	
Counterpart		0.00	
None		0.00	
Total		0.40	
9. Effective Development Cooperation			
Use of country procurement systems		No	
Use of country public financial management systems		No	

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) requested policy and advisory technical assistance (TA) from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to support the PRC's initiative on Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, which are jointly referred to as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The TA is included in the ADB Country Operations Business Plan, 2016–2018 for the PRC.¹ ADB fielded a reconnaissance mission in mid-January 2016 and reached an understanding with the government on the impact, outcome, outputs, implementation arrangements, costs, and terms of reference for consultants. The design and monitoring framework is in Appendix 1.²

II. ISSUES

2. Regional cooperation and integration (RCI) is a process by which national economies become more interconnected regionally. RCI plays a critical role in accelerating economic growth, reducing poverty and economic disparity, raising productivity and employment, and strengthening institutions. It narrows development gaps between ADB's developing member countries by building closer trade integration, intraregional supply chains, and stronger financial links, enabling slow-moving economies to speed their own expansion. It is an important platform on which countries work together toward unlocking their vast economic potential, achieving sustained rapid growth, and reducing poverty.

3. The PRC conceptualized the BRI Initiative in 2013. In March 2015, the government issued a vision document that provides information on the background, principles and framework, priority areas, and proposed cooperation mechanisms of BRI.³ The vision document states that BRI aims to achieve better connectivity and economic cooperation among countries in Eurasia. The Silk Road Economic Belt focuses on bringing together PRC, Central Asia, Russia and Europe (the Baltics); linking PRC with the Persian Gulf and the Mediterranean Sea through Central Asia and West Asia; and connecting PRC with Southeast Asia, South Asia and the Indian Ocean through this initiative, the PRC is interested in supporting the development of six economic corridors in coordination with other concerned countries: (i) PRC–Mongolia–Russian Federation, (ii) new Asia–European Continental Bridge, (iii) PRC–Central Asia–West Asia, (iv) PRC–Mainland Southeast Asia, (v) PRC–Pakistan, and (vi) Bangladesh–PRC–India–Myanmar. The 21st Century Maritime Silk Road proposes to focus on port construction and multimodal transport and logistics, as well as maritime ecological protection, linking PRC's coastal regions to Europe through the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean in one route, and through the South China Sea to the South Pacific in the other.

4. BRI is one of the major regional cooperation initiatives in terms of its geographic coverage and expected scale of investment. The international community is keen to understand better how these strategies may influence and reshape the PRC's economic relations with its neighbors. Currently, different countries and multilateral development partners are promoting many different regional and subregional cooperation initiatives aimed at linking Asia and Europe. These include the Partnership for Quality Infrastructure (Japan), the Eurasia Initiative (Republic of Korea), Steppe Road (Mongolia), and New Silk Road (United States). Regional and

¹ ADB. 2016. *Country Operations Business Plan: People's Republic of China, 2016–2018*. Manila.

² The TA first appeared in the business opportunities section of ADB's website on 31 March 2016.

³ Government of the PRC, National Development and Reform Commission; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Ministry of Commerce. 2015. *Vision and Actions on Jointly Building Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road*. Beijing. http://www.sdpc.gov.cn/gzdt/201503/t20150330_669392.html

subregional cooperation platforms are also being implemented, including the Asia–Europe Meeting,⁴ Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation, Economic Cooperation Organization,⁵ Eurasian Economic Union,⁶ Greater Mekong Subregional (GMS) economic cooperation, Lancang–Mekong Cooperation,⁷ and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. It is important that BRI build synergy and ensure complementarity with these various initiatives and platforms.

5. For example, the proposed PRC–Mainland Southeast Asia economic corridor under BRI covers the geographic area of the GMS program and extends to Malay Peninsula and Singapore. The need for a coordination mechanism with the GMS and other subregional cooperation mechanisms⁸ in the area will have to be raised with those participating countries that are also interested in the PRC–Mainland Southeast Asia economic corridor transport route, road map, and implementation plan. The PRC government intends to promote BRI economic corridors by relying on core cities along the transport routes and using economic zones and industrial parks as cooperation platforms.

6 The strategic importance of RCI is anchored in the ADB charter, which views RCI as a critical complement to national development actions to improve welfare.⁹ ADB defined its roles in RCI from four perspectives: (i) as financier, providing or mobilizing financial resources for RCI; (ii) as knowledge provider, creating, consolidating, and disseminating knowledge on RCI; (iii) as capacity builder, helping developing member countries and coordinating bodies build their capacity to manage RCI; and (iv) as honest broker, serving as catalyst and coordinator of RCI in the region. In terms of lending, the Strategy 2020 set a 30% overall lending volume target for RCI-related ADB operations by 2020.

7 The mid-term review (MTR) of Strategy 2020 (i) confirmed the importance of RCI in ADB's strategic agenda, (ii) reiterated the 30% operational target, and (iii) highlighted the need to adapt the implementation of ADB's RCI Strategy¹⁰ towards improving productivity and competitiveness and better mitigation of vulnerabilities. Asia and the Pacific's architecture for

⁴ The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an informal process of dialogue and cooperation bringing together the 28 European Union member states, 2 other European countries, and the European Union with 21 Asian countries and the ASEAN Secretariat. The ASEM dialogue addresses political, economic and cultural issues, with the objective of strengthening the relationship between our two regions, in a spirit of mutual respect and equal partnership. It was officially established on 1 March 1996 at the first summit in Bangkok, Thailand. The initial ASEM partnership in 1996 consisted of 15 EU member states and 7 ASEAN member states plus China, Japan, Korea and the European Commission. It was officially established on 1 March 1996 at the first summit in Bangkok, Thailand. ASEM currently has 53 partners: 51 countries and 2 regional organizations (European Union and ASEAN Secretariat).

⁵ The Economic Cooperation Organization is an intergovernmental regional organization established in 1985 by Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey for the purpose of promoting economic, technical, and culture cooperation among member countries. http://www.ecosecretariat.org/detail_info/about_eco_d.htm

⁶ The Eurasian Economic Union is an economic union evolved from Eurasian Economic Community. Its member countries include Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia.

⁷ The Lancang-Mekong Cooperation framework was officially launched on November 2015 by the PRC, Thailand, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam. At the early stage, member countries will cooperate in three key areas: politico-security issues, economic affairs and sustainable development, social affairs and people-to-people exchanges.

⁸ There are 12 regional groupings within the Mekong subregion, which is participated by at least one GMS member.

⁹ Article 2(ii) of the Charter mandates ADB "to utilize the resources at its disposal for financing development of the developing member countries in the region, giving priority to those regional, sub-regional as well as national projects and programs which will contribute most effectively to the harmonious economic growth of the region as a whole, and having special regard to the needs of the smaller or less developed member countries in the region."

¹⁰ ADB issued the RCI Strategy in 2006. In this strategy, ADB identifies four pillars for RCI promotion: (i) cross-border infrastructure and related regulations, procedures, and standards; (ii) trade and investment cooperation and integration; (iii) monetary and financial cooperation and integration; and (iv) cooperation in regional public goods. The RCI operation Plan is scheduled to be released by June of 2016.

collective action on RCI spans many mechanisms that vary widely in terms of objectives, scope, structure, and actors. This “multi-track” and “multi-speed” approach to cooperation has allowed developing member countries to pursue RCI in a way that is responsive to their needs. ADB’s country partnership strategy for the PRC for the 2016-2020 period also placed high priority for ADB support to the PRC’s regional cooperation efforts as an honest broker.

8. ADB first used the term economic corridor in 1998, and defines it as networks or connections between economic agents along a defined geographic area, which link the supply and demand sides of markets. ADB pays significant attention to economic corridor development during its RCI operations. What economic corridors can achieve for RCI depends on the characteristics of the existing specific economic networks in the economic corridors, and on the characteristics that a corridor development is intended to introduce or strengthen.¹¹

9. The GMS countries adopted the economic corridor approach during the 8th GMS Ministerial Meeting held in Manila in 1998, and major economic corridors have been identified and are being developed, including the North–South Economic Corridor, the East–West Economic Corridor, and the Southern Economic Corridor.¹² ADB supports the development of the GMS economic corridors through design of master plan, creation and maintenance of forums and working groups, assistance in feasibility and engineering studies, and fund mobilization. ADB’s extensive experience regarding GMS economic corridor development can be integrated into proposed PRC–Mainland Southeast Asia economic corridor development.

10. This TA will examine how the BRI Initiative—including its principles, framework, cooperation priorities, and latest development status—and analyze ways to enhance coordination between BRI and existing regional cooperation mechanisms. The TA will help to enhance the design of the PRC–Mainland Southeast Asia economic corridor to strengthen connectivity between economies, improve competitiveness in the connected market, and promote regional public goods.

III. THE POLICY AND ADVISORY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A. Impact and Outcome

11. The impact will be realization of a new market opportunity for stakeholders along BRI areas. The outcome will be to help place of BRI in the overall RCI landscape, with an improved design of the PRC–Mainland Southeast Asia economic corridor as a pilot case. The study will also provide recommendations on how BRI can best coordinate with existing RCI mechanisms.

B. Methodology and Key Activities

12. **Output 1: A comprehensive comparative study on the BRI Initiative and other relevant regional cooperation and integration initiatives conducted.** The TA will produce a flagship publication with two main parts: (i) a comprehensive comparative study of BRI and other relevant RCI initiatives and an analysis of BRI’s positioning amid relevant regional and subregional initiatives, and (ii) a road map for the development of the PRC–Mainland Southeast Asia economic corridor based on an examination of relevant issues. A high-level regional

¹¹ H. Brunner. 2013. What is Economic Corridor Development and What Can It Achieve in Asia’s Subregions? *ADB Working Paper Series on Regional Economic Integration*. No.113. Manila: ADB.

¹² ADB. Multisector Development in the Greater Mekong Subregion. <http://www.adb.org/countries/gms/sector-activities/multisector>

consultation will be conducted to enhance coordination between BRI and existing RCI coordination mechanisms.

13. **Output 2: Road map for the development of the PRC–Mainland Southeast Asia Economic Corridor prepared.** Consultants and ADB researchers will review economic corridor development experience (on the part of ADB and other multilateral development banks); the development status of mainland Southeast Asia economies; and issues concerning international production network cooperation, connectivity between the PRC and mainland Southeast Asia, regional public goods, and regional competitiveness. The consultants will assess mainland Southeast Asian countries' longer term development plans to find synergy or interface with BRI. Based on an analysis of these issues, a preliminary road map for corridor development and an implementation plan will be prepared. The role of and ways to engage the private sector, plus coordination with GMS and other existing RCI mechanisms will also be explored.

14. **Output 3: International support to the BRI Initiative enhanced.** Two high-level conferences focusing on international policy dialogue will be conducted to allow policy makers and key stakeholders in mainland Southeast Asian countries to gain a better understanding of BRI and the PRC–Mainland Southeast Asia economic corridor as a basis for future dialogue among the concerned countries. The first conference will focus on the scope of BRI and the initiative's implications for RCI in Asia. The second will discuss best practices in economic corridor development, coordination of GMS and existing RCI mechanisms, and approaches to the development of the PRC–Mainland Southeast Asia economic corridor that would enhance its competitiveness and ensure complementarity with other economic corridors.

C. Cost and Financing

15. The TA is estimated to cost \$440,000, of which \$400,000 will be financed on a grant basis by ADB's Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF-other sources). The government will provide counterpart support in the form of office space and local transport, remuneration and per diem of local support staff, equipment, and other in-kind contributions. The cost estimates and financing plan are in Appendix 2.

D. Implementation Arrangements

16. The Development Research Center of the State Council of the PRC will be the executing agency. The Development Research Center's International Cooperation Department will be the implementing agency, and will coordinate and supervise the day-to-day work of the consultants and assume overall responsibility for workshops and conferences.

17. The proposed TA will be implemented from 30 June 2016 to 31 December 2017. The TA will engage one international consultant (for 3 person-months) and four national consultants (for 13 person-months). TA implementation will make extensive use of participatory workshops and conferences, which will require a wide range of skills and experience, and a substantial provision is therefore made for resource persons. The consultant terms of reference are in Appendix 3. As a leading institution in economic corridor development, ADB will share knowledge and experience with the countries participating in the PRC–Mainland Southeast Asia economic corridor. ADB will set up a special study team within the RCI Thematic Group to work with the executing agency during TA implementation.

18. The consultants will be hired in accordance with ADB's Guidelines on the Use of Consultants (2013, as amended from time to time), and proceeds will be disbursed in

accordance with ADB's *Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook* (2010, as amended from time to time). Consultants will be engaged individually. All reports (hard and electronic copies) will be submitted in English and Chinese to both ADB and the executing agency. The consultants will maintain close working relations with ADB and the executing agency and will discuss progress and findings regularly. Tripartite meetings involving ADB, the executing agency, and the consultants will be held when necessary to provide guidance to the consultants and to review draft reports. The implementing agency may use an advance payment facility for training and workshop administration.

IV. THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION

19. The President, acting under the authority delegated by the Board, has approved the provision of technical assistance not exceeding the equivalent of \$400,000 on a grant basis to the People's Republic of China for Study of the Belt and Road Initiative, and hereby reports this action to the Board.

DESIGN AND MONITORING FRAMEWORK

Impact the TA is Aligned with
 New market opportunity for stakeholders along the BRI-covered areas realized (Vision and Actions on Jointly Building Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road)^a

Results Chain	Performance Indicators with Targets and Baselines	Data Sources and Reporting	Risks
<p>Outcome Positioning of BRI in the overall RCI landscape, with an improved design of the PRC–Mainland Southeast Asia economic corridor as a pilot case established</p>	<p>a. Policy recommendations submitted to the government 3 months after TA completion (2016 baseline: 0)</p>	<p>a. Government announcement and the websites of NDRC and DRC, TA progress report, TA completion report</p>	<p>Government’s focus on building the PRC–Mainland Southeast Asia economic corridor weakens.</p> <p>Policy advice is not accepted by policy makers.</p>
<p>Outputs</p> <p>1. A comprehensive comparative study on BRI and other relevant RCI initiatives conducted</p> <p>2. A road map for the development of the PRC–Mainland Southeast Asia economic corridor prepared</p> <p>3. International support to the BRI Initiative enhanced</p>	<p>1. Report submitted to the executing agency (by month 15) (2016 baseline: 0)</p> <p>2. Road map submitted to the relevant government agent through the executing agency (by month 15) (baseline: 0)</p> <p>3. Executing agency will host two international conferences: one on BRI, and one on the PRC–Mainland Southeast Asia economic corridor (by month 7 and month 13 respectively) (2016 baseline: 0)</p>	<p>1. TA progress report, TA completion report</p> <p>2. TA progress report, government announcements, TA review missions</p> <p>3. Government announcements, TA review report, TA completion report</p>	<p>Information and data are not accessible, or are insufficient.</p> <p>Limited participation of countries in mainland Southeast Asia.</p>

Key Activities with Milestones

1. Comprehensive comparative study on BRI and other relevant RCI initiatives

1.1. Review international experience, other related literature, and official policies and regulations by month 5.

1.2. Conduct data collection, survey, and consultations by month 7.

1.3. Submit interim report and conduct interim workshop by month 9.

1.4. Conduct further data collection and analysis by month 11.

1.5. Prepare draft final report by month 13.

1.6. Submit final report by month 15.

<p>2. Road map for the development of the PRC–Mainland Southeast Asia economic corridor</p> <p>2.1. Review international experience, other related literature, and official policies and regulations by month 5.</p> <p>2.2. Conduct data collection, survey, and consultations by month 7.</p> <p>2.3. Submit first draft road map and present in interim workshop by month 9.</p> <p>2.4. Conduct further data collection and analysis by month 11.</p> <p>2.5. Present second draft road map in final workshop by month 13.</p> <p>2.6. Submit final road map by month 15.</p> <p>3. International support on BRI</p> <p>3.1. Submit conference design by month 2, following the mobilization of consultant.</p> <p>3.2. Organize first high-level policy dialogue conference by month 7.</p> <p>3.3. Organize second high-level policy dialogue conference by month 13.</p>
<p>Inputs</p> <p>ADB: \$400,000</p> <p>Note: The government will provide counterpart support in the form of office space and local transport, remuneration and per diem of local support staff, equipment, and other in-kind contributions.</p>
<p>Assumptions for Partner Financing</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>

ADB = Asian Development Bank, BRI = Belt and Road Initiative, PRC = People's Republic of China, RCI = regional cooperation and integration, TA = technical assistance.

^a Government of the PRC, National Development and Reform Commission; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Ministry of Commerce. 2015. *Vision and Actions on Jointly Building Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road*. Beijing. http://www.sdpc.gov.cn/gzdt/201503/t20150330_669392.html

Source: Asian Development Bank.

COST ESTIMATES AND FINANCING PLAN
(\$'000)

Item	Amount
Asian Development Bank^a	
1. Consultants	
a. Remuneration and per diem	
i. International consultants	60.0
ii. National consultants	80.0
b. International and local travel	50.0
c. Reports and communications ^b	20.0
2. Training, seminars, and conferences	
a. Conferences and workshops ^c	120.0
b. Resource persons and survey ^d	50.0
3. Contingencies	20.0
Total	400.0

Note: The technical assistance (TA) is estimated to cost \$440,000, of which contributions from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) are presented in the table above. The government will provide counterpart support in the form of office space and local transport, remuneration and per diem of local support staff, equipment, and other in-kind contributions. The government will also assist in arranging meetings with counterpart agencies. The value of government contribution is estimated to account for 9.1% of the total TA cost.

^a Financed by ADB's Technical Assistance Fund (TASF-other sources).

^b Includes the cost of translation and interpretation of international practices and/or guidelines, reports, and other TA outputs.

^c Includes consultation workshops to collect stakeholders' comments on capacity development products. Up to two event coordinators for each regional conference will be recruited to help the event organizer make logistical arrangements, including disseminating invitation letters, following up on participants' confirmation, and arranging airline tickets and hotel bookings. The event coordinator will have a bachelor's degree in English, economics, environmental protection, or a related field. Fluency in spoken English is required.

^d If ADB staff act as resource persons and/or facilitators, travel costs may be charged to the TA with the prior agreement of the implementing agency.

Source: Asian Development Bank estimates.

OUTLINE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANTS

1. The consultants will be hired in accordance with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Guidelines on the Use of Consultants (2013, as amended from time to time), and proceeds will be disbursed in accordance with ADB's *Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook* (2010, as amended from time to time). Consultants will be engaged individually. All reports will be submitted in English and Chinese to both ADB and the executing agency, and in both hard and electronic copies.

2. **Regional cooperation specialist and team leader** (national, 4 person-months, intermittent). The specialist will (i) have at least 15 years of experience in regional cooperation, policy preparation, and implementation; (ii) hold a master's degree or higher qualification in economics, public governance, or a closely related field; (iii) be proficient in English; and (iv) have demonstrated experience consulting with the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) regarding regional cooperation policy. As the team leader, the specialist will be responsible for the final outputs of this technical assistance (TA), as well as the daily coordination and supervision of the team. The specialist will perform the following:

- (i) develop the detailed study framework and methodology in consultation with the executing and implementing agencies.
- (ii) develop the outline of TA inception, interim, and final reports; and assign work to respective specialists and resource persons.
- (iii) prepare inception, interim, and final reports and their revisions with inputs from the team members. The team leader will review the PRC's initiative on Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road (One Belt One Road Initiative) and the PRC–Mainland Southeast Asia economic corridor design and analyze the implications for regional cooperation and integration (RCI), particularly PRC–Mainland Southeast Asia regional cooperation. Based on this study, the report will present practical policy recommendations to the PRC and its neighboring countries with the goal of raising economic competitiveness through such arrangements.
- (iv) ensure timely implementation of TA activities, including conducting field investigations and data collection, preparing reports and organizing regional coordination conferences and workshops, providing technical support in capacity building events, and other related activities.
- (v) guide international specialists in identifying international experiences and lessons that can be incorporated by the PRC government.
- (vi) prepare and submit semiannual TA progress reports to ADB and the executing agency.
- (vii) undertake other tasks necessary to accomplish the TA objectives.

3. **Regional cooperation specialist** (international, 3 months, intermittent). The regional cooperation expert will have (i) at least 15 years of experience in regional cooperation and economic development; (ii) extensive knowledge of Asian economies, particularly in mainland Southeast Asia; and (iii) a master's degree or higher qualification in economics or a closely related field. The specific responsibilities will include the following:

- (i) review of relevant literature and practice on RCI in developing economies globally and draw lessons for regional cooperation in the PRC and the neighboring region;

- (ii) identify, review, and assess regional and global developments of significant relevance to future PRC–Mainland Southeast Asia regional cooperation;
- (iii) analyze economic trends in countries in mainland Southeast Asia to identify potential challenges and opportunities for regional cooperation;
- (iv) undertake wide-ranging consultations with stakeholders within mainland Southeast Asia, in both the public and private sectors, and with development partners, academia, and civil society;
- (v) develop a comprehensive strategic framework for regional cooperation between the PRC and mainland Southeast Asia, identifying priority areas and actions;
- (vi) design two high-level policy dialogue conferences and introduce the latest regional cooperation trends and coordination mechanisms among different platforms;
- (vii) provide substantial inputs to TA reports;
- (viii) participate in the TA workshops to present and discuss study findings; and
- (ix) conduct other related tasks assigned by the team leader.

4. **Regional connectivity specialist** (national, 3 person-months, intermittent). The regional connectivity specialist will have at least 10 years of experience working in regional cooperation; a postgraduate education in transport, economics, or other development-related field; extensive familiarity with PRC–Mainland Southeast Asia infrastructure connectivity; and deep knowledge of economic corridor development. The specialist will:

- (i) review the PRC–Mainland Southeast Asia infrastructure linkage development status and the economic corridor development progress made in mainland Southeast Asia under the Greater Mekong Subregion and other related RCI mechanisms;
- (ii) assess the linkage infrastructure gap and logistics performance of economic corridors in mainland Southeast Asia, strengthen the design of the infrastructure connection development plan, and recommend areas for improvement with regard to border crossings;
- (iii) identify and prepare an analysis and/or recommendations on issues that need to be addressed, and the next steps in the PRC–Mainland Southeast Asia economic corridor development;
- (iv) provide substantial inputs to TA reports;
- (v) participate in the TA workshops to present and discuss study findings; and
- (vi) conduct other related tasks assigned by the team leader.

5. **Regional cooperation institutional development specialist** (national, 3 person-months, intermittent). The regional cooperation institutional development specialist will have at least 10 years of working experience in regional cooperation development; extensive familiarity with mainland Southeast Asia regionwide economic cooperation mechanisms, and international law; a master's degree or higher qualification in economics, legal studies, or a related field; and experience working on government projects. English proficiency will be an advantage. The specialist will:

- (i) review the present regional RCI implementation mechanisms in mainland Southeast Asia, assess ongoing coordination mechanisms, and identify areas where further coordination is needed;
- (ii) consult relevant institutes to test possible coordination approaches;
- (iii) design coordination approaches between different RCI mechanisms;
- (iv) provide substantial inputs to TA reports;

- (v) participate in the TA workshops to present and discuss study findings; and
- (vi) conduct other related tasks assigned by the team leader.

6. **Regional connection economist** (national, 3 person-months, intermittent). The specialist will have strong expertise, extensive experience, and in-depth knowledge of regional cooperation development. The consultant will have at least 10 years of relevant experience in regional cooperation development, and a master's degree or higher qualification in economics or a closely related field. The specialist will undertake the following tasks:

- (i) conduct a comprehensive review of the economic development strategy, international labor division, and production line network development of countries in mainland Southeast Asia;
- (ii) review the economic cooperation status between PRC and countries in mainland Southeast Asia;
- (iii) analyze further economic cooperation enhancement approaches, and (together with other team members) design and/or revise the economic corridor route;
- (iv) participate in TA workshops to present and discuss findings;
- (v) provide substantial inputs to the TA reports; and
- (vi) conduct other related tasks assigned by the team leader.

7. **Resource persons** (national and international, intermittent, up to four persons for each conference and/or workshop, up to 4 days each). Each resource person will have a degree in regional cooperation, economics, law, public management, business administration, public policy, or a closely related field; and at least 10 years of experience in regional cooperation and economic development. Reporting to the team leader, the resource persons will participate in the regional conferences and knowledge products review workshops to provide specific expertise and experience relevant to the issues addressed by the event. The ADB project team, with assistance from the team leader, will select the resource persons.