Regional Technical Assistance Report

Project Number: 42104
July 2008

Strategic Partnerships for Policy Development and Action to Foster Regional Cooperation in South Asia
(Financed by the Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund under the Regional Cooperation and Integration Financing Partnership Facility)

Asian Development Bank
ABBREVIATIONS

ADB – Asian Development Bank
ASEAN – Association of Southeast Asian Nations
DMC – developing member country
FDI – foreign direct investment
OREI – Office of Regional Economic Integration
RCI – regional cooperation and integration
RCIF – Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund
RCSP – regional cooperation strategy and program
RETA – regional technical assistance
RIS – Research and Information System for Developing Countries
SAARC – South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SAFTA – South Asia Free Trade Agreement
SARD – South Asia Department
TOR – terms of reference

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CLASSIFICATION

Targeting Classification – General intervention
Sectors – Multisector (industry and trade; law, economic management, and public policy; finance)
Subsectors – Industry, economic management, finance sector development
Themes – Sustainable economic growth, regional cooperation, private sector development
Subthemes – Promoting economic efficiency and enabling markets, regional public goods, policy/institutional/legal/regulatory reforms

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Vice-President</th>
<th>L. Jin, Operations Group 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>Director General</td>
<td>K. Senga, South Asia Department (SARD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Team leader</td>
<td>S. Durrani-Jamal, Economist, SARD</td>
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<td>Team members</td>
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<td>S. N. Oh, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, SARD</td>
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<td>G. Wignaraja, Senior Economist (Trade), Office of Regional Economic Integration</td>
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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has actively supported regional cooperation undertaken by developing member countries (DMCs) in South Asia for over two decades. Initial technical assistance (TA) was sought to help identify opportunities for collaborative work in energy, environment, tourism, trade, and transport, among others. Although progress towards regional integration within South Asia has been made through free trade agreements, tariff reductions and cross-border infrastructure development, much more remains to be done. For instance, major structural changes underway within the region are placing pressure on shared natural resources, which require prudent management.

2. The pace of integration within South Asia appears to be determined by several factors—including carefully considered geopolitical strategies, perceptions of unequal opportunities for market expansion, and the need for mechanisms to manage the integration process—all of which involve many stakeholders. ADB’s South Asia regional cooperation strategy and program (RCSP) (2006–2008)\(^1\) recognized that cooperation, particularly on sensitive issues such as water resources and the environment, would be difficult, and could serve as a stumbling block, impeding broader negotiations. It therefore proposed an alternative called “track II” in the form of knowledge based cooperation among stakeholders on such issues. More recently, ADB’s Strategy 2020\(^2\) points to the widening disparities among DMCs as a serious development challenge, one that is particularly evident in the case of South Asia; it emphasizes the role regional cooperation and integration (RCI) can play in reducing such disparities through mutually beneficial use and exchange of resources, expertise and markets.

3. This regional technical assistance (RETA) seeks to address constraints to RCI in South Asia by building knowledge regarding promising areas of cooperation.\(^3\) It also aims to strategically strengthen partnerships between governments, research institutes, and the private sector within and across DMCs. The concept paper was cleared by the vice-president on 29 April 2008. A fact-finding mission, conducted between April and May 2008, consulted research institutes, chambers of commerce and industries, and government officials regarding the design and proposed approach.\(^4\) The no-objection of South Asian governments\(^5\) to the RETA design will be obtained prior to implementation. The design and monitoring framework is in Appendix 1.

II. ISSUES

4. Development agencies, including ADB, have continued to support research institutes in order to enhance technical capacity for research to help inform both national and regional policies. This investment has yielded good results; in the 1980s the Committee for Studies on Cooperation for Development introduced groundbreaking ideas such as the utilization and trading of hydropower resources in the Himalayas. There is now growing evidence of extensive informal trade in South Asia that for some countries exceeds formal trade,\(^6\) and can thus provide an impetus for trade reforms. However, the ability of DMCs to reduce poverty through sustained

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\(^3\) For example, the 13th SAARC Summit (2005), identified the need to study the implications of including services under the South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA).

\(^4\) The TA first appeared in the business opportunities section of ADB’s website on 8 May 2008.

\(^5\) Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

high economic growth rates is made more challenging by the adverse effects of climate change. In all of the above cases, regional cooperation can offer benefits such as collective expertise, judicious use of resources, larger market access, greater consumer choice, increased productivity, and improved prospects for harmony.

5. The Role of Knowledge and Partnerships in Accelerating Regional Cooperation. Knowledge makes an individual or an institution “capable of different or more effective action”. Stakeholder partnerships can play a critical role in pooling knowledge and resources across institutions and countries, and depoliticizing and influencing public discourse on sensitive issues. Issues related to knowledge and partnerships that arise in the process of regional cooperation include (i) the need for analysis and public engagement on the impact of regional cooperation, (ii) challenges associated with translating research findings into policies and actions, and (iii) poor understanding of the unique value that key stakeholders add to the process of regional cooperation through partnerships.

6. First, research organizations have an important role to play in analyzing both short-term and long-term issues of regional importance. Although there are several well-respected research institutes in the region that have undertaken high-quality work that illustrates the impacts of cooperation in trade, investment, and services, their role as truly regional think tanks is still evolving. Several reasons for this were identified. Most importantly, there is a need for long-term financing, to help professionals develop independent and credible research on regional cooperation. This could involve building regional research teams that collectively analyze regional issues from the perspective of different jurisdictions and stakeholders and then identify opportunities, as opposed to research that simply reflects national interests vis-a-vis regional issues. There is also need for systematic mechanisms that utilize research findings to inform decision making. Constructive and strategic public engagement by reputable research institutes may well serve to accelerate regional cooperation initiatives in South Asia.

7. Second, translating research and analytical findings into actions in DMCs is challenging. Although support for regional cooperation in specific areas may be present (in the form of expressed intent and high-level political will), cooperation can be hindered by differences among countries in their ability to implement changes in policies, business processes, procedures, and in some cases legislation. For example, in the case of trade promotion, alignment between the operational priorities of the central and state and/or provincial governments along borders is clearly needed, and barriers to trade and investment need to be better documented and then addressed. Environmental changes need to be factored into technical specifications and capital investment costs.

8. Third, weak understanding of the unique value that each of the stakeholders brings to the process of regional cooperation can result in less effective partnerships to address issues. Research organizations can identify issues of global and/or regional importance, and provide

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7 DMCs must generate growth while adopting environmentally sensitive technologies, and also manage the adverse effects of environmental changes already underway.
10 For instance, see RIS. 2008. SAARC Regional Study on Potential for Trade in Services under SAFTA. New Delhi.
11 The latter can become a critical stumbling block and may be difficult for the executive to address. New legislation should be kept flexible to allow the executive to institute procedural changes in response to changing conditions.
supporting analysis for policy formulation and impact assessment. The private sector can
provide valuable insights for attracting investment and increasing the adoption of
environmentally friendly technologies. Governments can use the feedback and support from
such partnerships, as well as their own longstanding experience, to ensure that regional
coeperation policies and projects being formulated are realistic. They can also suggest practical
ways to further implementation of current regional cooperation initiatives.

9. ADB’s South Asia Department has actively supported research on regional cooperation
under “track II” of its RCSP through TA\textsuperscript{12} supporting trade integration, investment cooperation,
macroeconomic policy harmonization, and implementation of a South Asia citizens’ charter,
among others. This support has been very helpful in analyzing key policy issues and in
promoting partnerships, particularly among the leadership of regional networks, to carry forward
analytical work and influence public opinion and policies in the region. However, the magnitude
of the challenges requires that assistance be increased and sustained over the long term.

III. THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

10. This RETA has been designed with four features to address the issues identified above.
First, it provides researchers, policy makers and private sector partners the opportunity to
collaborate on areas identified as significant to regional cooperation. Second, it facilitates the
exchange of strategies between South Asia and other regions such as the Association of
Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), where RCI is far more advanced. Third, it supports
systematic discussion on issues among senior policy makers to allow them to jointly identify
initiatives for regional forums such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
(SAARC), the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation,
and the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation forum. Fourth, it aims to incorporate
ongoing research findings into ADB’s policy dialogue with DMC governments and other key
stakeholders.

A. Impact and Outcome

11. The outcome of the RETA is strengthened knowledge-based collaboration among South
Asian policy makers, researchers and private sector investors to address national and regional
development issues. Better understanding of issues, harmonization of policies and collaboration
on common opportunities is expected to contribute to greater economic prosperity and stability
in South Asia.

B. Methodology and Key Activities

12. The RETA is an umbrella TA covering four research areas identified by stakeholders as
critical to regional trade in goods and services and promotion of private sector-led development
in an efficient and environmentally sustainable manner. Topic 1: Enhancing Supply Capabilities
in South Asia, recognizes the need of less-developed economies to fully develop their supply-
side capacity through productivity enhancement, innovation and efficiency measures in order to
reap the opportunities posed by regional trade liberalization and access to cross-border markets.
The study will examine enhancement of the supply of finished and intermediate products, which

\textsuperscript{12} For instance, see outputs for ADB, 2004. \textit{Technical Assistance for Supporting Network of Research Institutes and
Think Tanks in South Asia}. Manila. (TA 6189-REG); and ADB, 2007. \textit{Technical Assistance for Supporting Network
of Research Institutes and Think Tanks in South Asia. Phase II}. Manila. (TA 6417-REG). The latter is based on the
concept of a research fund grant distributed on the basis of competitive proposals. Publications under TA 6189-
REG are available at http://www.saceps.org/publications.
are key to the development of regional supply clusters.\textsuperscript{13} It aims to identify policy instruments and institutional and financing mechanisms that can encourage foreign direct investment, and examine total quality management and the use of environmentally friendly technology,\textsuperscript{14} among other issues. Topic 2: Barriers to Intraregional Direct Investment, supports topic 1 by identifying specific barriers to investment within South Asian countries, including barriers related to commercial and financial sector policies and regulations. Elimination of barriers may be crucial to realizing the true potential for intraregional investment and trade in South Asia, including for services. Topic 3: Development of Initiatives to Promote Regional Trade in Services, recognizes emerging private sector-led demand for trading of business and professional services to help address demand and supply imbalances across countries, especially for textiles and clothing, healthcare, and education. The study will support initiatives focused on extending the South Asia Free Trade Agreement to cover trade in services. Case studies will be undertaken in three or four service sectors of priority interest to South Asian countries. Topic 4: Relevance of RCI from the Perspective of Less-Developed Countries, will review the gains to smaller DMCs from joining regional cooperation forums such as ASEAN and the European Union, and from entering into regional trade agreements.

13. The scope of work in para. 12 is based on a review of recent studies, but will be finalized during the inception workshop to ensure that the outputs are strategic, add value and are of practical relevance to South Asian countries. Some resources have also been set aside to respond flexibly to requests for information from governments during implementation. ADB’s Office of Regional Economic Integration will serve as a resource for research methodologies and for interacting with the ASEAN Secretariat.

14. \textbf{Output 1: Research and Feasibility Studies.} Key activities towards this output include: (i) an inception workshop to finalize scope of work, timeline and deliverables (September–October 2008); (ii) identification of the membership and terms of reference (TOR) of the technical working group (September–October 2008); (iii) preparation of research studies, and workshops\textsuperscript{15} to determine methodologies, conduct surveys, and analyze data (October 2008–December 2009).

15. \textbf{Output 2: Studies Disseminated, Experiences Shared and Policy Impacts Assessed and Discussed.} i) Preparation of policy briefs, identification of regional cooperation initiatives and financing requirements\textsuperscript{16} (January–March 2010); (ii) policy dialogue, seminars and/or workshops held with experienced panelists, policy makers, the private sector and civil society institutions, including those from South Asia and ASEAN countries\textsuperscript{17} (March 2010–June


\textsuperscript{14} A chief executive officers roundtable in 2007 also identified inadequate management of regional public goods, including the environment, as a major issue in South Asia. Source: Confederation of Indian Industry. 2007.

\textsuperscript{15} ADB’s Office of Regional Economic Integration will provide resources to discuss methodologies for identifying, categorizing and analyzing barriers to trade and investment.

\textsuperscript{16} These initiatives could include development of national and regional policies, project proposals for regional public–private partnerships or chamber to chamber collaboration, programs supported by public sector financing, or TA.

\textsuperscript{17} Specific lessons from ASEAN include (i) implementation of ASEAN policy blueprint for small and medium-sized enterprise development (APBSD) 2004–2014; (ii) successful measures to attract foreign direct investment for natural resource use and industrial development; and (iii) the ongoing process of liberalizing regional trade in services in seven priority sectors including healthcare, business services, and construction.
C. Cost and Financing

16. The total cost of the RETA is estimated at $700,000 and will be financed on a grant basis from the Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund under the Regional Cooperation and Integration Financing Partnership Facility. Detailed cost estimates and financing plan are in Appendix 2.

D. Implementation Arrangements

17. ADB will be the Executing Agency for the RETA, which will be implemented over 24 months from September 2008 to August 2010. The Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India, has been identified as the consultant and will be engaged through single source selection. RIS will draw on its own staff and research associates in South Asia to develop research teams. RIS shares ADB’s vision and commitment regarding regional cooperation. It has stimulated policy dialogue on significant issues such as trade in services, energy security, and foreign direct investment at high-level forums in South Asia and East Asia, and brings this exceptional experience to the RETA. A time-based contract approach will be used, with payments based on satisfactory quality of deliverables.

18. A technical working group composed of eminent experts from participating South Asian countries, the private sector, and ADB will oversee RETA implementation. The research will be undertaken by a team of national consultants (100 person-months). An international development specialist (6 person-months), and a national consultant (12 person-months) will be recruited by ADB to oversee research quality and support management, coordination, and TA administration, respectively.

19. The terms of reference (TOR) for RIS and the consultants are outlined in Appendix 3. Once the scope of the research is finalized during the inception workshop, specific TORs and subcontracts with individual researchers will be prepared in accordance with ADB’s Guidelines on the Use of Consultants (2007, as amended from time to time). No equipment will be procured under the RETA. To facilitate implementation, an advance payment facility will be used in line with the Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook (2008, as amended from time to time).

IV. THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION

20. The President, acting under the authority delegated by the Board, has approved the provision of technical assistance not exceeding the equivalent of $700,000 to be financed on a grant basis by the Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund under the Regional Cooperation and Integration Financing Partnership Facility for Strategic Partnerships for Policy Development and Action to Foster Regional Cooperation in South Asia, and hereby reports this action to the Board.

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16 RIS is (i) a well-established institute with research and training capabilities in RCI; (ii) a core faculty with extensive work experience on global RCI issues (available: https://www.ris.org.in/publications); (iii) strong linkages with research institutes and policy makers; and (iv) demonstrated ability to effectively disseminate research findings through seminars, policy briefs, and professional training.
**DESIGN AND MONITORING FRAMEWORK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Design Summary</th>
<th>Performance Targets and/or Indicators</th>
<th>Data Sources and/or Reporting Mechanisms</th>
<th>Assumptions and Risks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Impact</strong></td>
<td>Increase in intraregional trade in goods and services, FDI, movement of people, and sustainable use of natural resources</td>
<td>Data on trade, FDI, documents listing harmonized policies and procedures and surveys of consumer and/or firms. Data on emissions and adoption rate of green technologies (municipal and industrial).</td>
<td><strong>Assumption</strong> • Conducive legal and regulatory structures, financing mechanisms and technology that promotes cross-border investment. <strong>Risk</strong> • Political direction in some DMCs that restricts investment (intellectual and financial) in long-term regional cooperation</td>
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<td><strong>Outcome</strong></td>
<td>Improved policies, budgets, and operational mechanisms for priority initiatives</td>
<td>Policy statements, budget documents, surveys of firms</td>
<td><strong>Assumption</strong> • Information sharing and joint commitment to regional development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outputs</strong></td>
<td>• Studies prepared for each research topic • Policy briefs, financing, legal and regulatory instruments for regional cooperation</td>
<td>Draft and final reports; RETA monitoring missions, TWG meetings Minutes of meetings and/or seminars, publications</td>
<td><strong>Risks</strong> • Perception that research direction and policy recommendations favor particular countries • Partners have weak understanding of regional public goods.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activities with Milestones</td>
<td><strong>Output 1. Research Studies Prepared</strong> 1.1 An inception workshop to finalize scope of work, timeline, and deliverables (September–October 2008) 1.2 Identification of the TWG and finalization of its TOR (September–October 2008) 1.3 Preparation of research studies, and workshops to determine methodologies, conduct surveys, and analyze data (October 2008–December 2009)</td>
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<td><strong>Inputs</strong> • ADB ($700,000 + 24 weeks staff time 2008–2010) • Private sector (12 weeks) • TWG (24 weeks)</td>
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<td><strong>Output 2. Studies and Analyses Disseminated, Experiences Shared and Policy Impacts Assessed and Discussed</strong> 2.1 Preparation of policy briefs, identification of regional cooperation initiatives and financing requirements (January–March 2010) 2.2 Policy dialogue, seminars and/or workshops held with experienced panelists, policy makers, private sector and civil society institutions, including those from South Asia and ASEAN countries (March–June 2010); Policy briefings provided to inform and influence public policies on regional cooperation (March–June 2010) 2.3 Presentation of findings at regional cooperation events organized by the public and private sectors (summer 2010) 2.4 Finalization and dissemination of reports (May–August 2010)</td>
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ADB = Asian Development Bank, ASEAN = Association of Southeast Asian Nations, DMC = developing member country, FDI = foreign direct investment, RETA = regional technical assistance, TOR = terms of reference, TWG = technical working group.
COST ESTIMATES AND FINANCING PLAN
($’000)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund under the Regional Cooperation and Integration Financing Partnership Facility</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Consultants</td>
<td>388.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Remuneration and Per Diem</td>
<td>338.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>i. International Consultant</td>
<td>120.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>ii. National Consultants</td>
<td>218.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. International and Local Travel</td>
<td>50.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Workshops, Seminars, and Conferences</td>
<td>145.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Miscellaneous Administration and Support Costs</td>
<td>60.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Publications (Multimedia)</td>
<td>7.0</td>
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<td>5. Contingencies</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>700.0</strong></td>
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Source: Asian Development Bank estimates.
OUTLINE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANTS

A. Research and Information System for Developing Countries

1. The Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) will be engaged to prepare studies in conjunction with research associates from South Asia, as detailed in the specific terms of reference (TOR) for the research team. The scope of the research, timelines and deliverables to be submitted by RIS in response to the request for proposal will be finalized during the inception workshop, to be held after approval of the regional technical assistance (RETA). In particular, RIS is expected to:

   (i) Organize the inception workshop, and provide logistical support to invitees from academia, government and the private sector, to be selected in consultation with the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

   (ii) Take the lead in facilitating discussions during the inception workshop on the identified research topics in order to refine the scope of work for selected topics, and reach agreement with ADB on the timelines and deliverables.

   (iii) Lead the preparation of in-depth studies in accordance with the agreed TOR. Outline the cross-border policy, legal, regulatory, and financing mechanisms needed to ensure optimal use of resources to address specific constraints to regional cooperation and integration (RCI).

   (iv) Implement, in consultation with ADB, an effective quality control mechanism for preparation of the studies, and make available all background information and data used in their development.

   (v) Hold regular consultations with and provide regular and timely briefings to the TWG during the course of the research.

   (vi) Based on the findings of the studies, develop policy briefs and identify potential areas for cooperation, as well as financing requirements for feasible regional cooperation initiatives. These initiatives could include development of regional policies, project proposals for regional public-private partnerships or chamber-to-chamber collaboration, and programs supported by public sector financing or technical assistance (TA).

   (vii) Participate in all RETA activities in accordance with the implementation schedule and arrangements as agreed during the inception workshop.

   (viii) Prepare appropriate briefing materials and organize presentations by the team of researchers to regional governments, research institutes and/or academia, and the private sector through appropriate forums as identified under the RETA.

B. Deliverables and Timeline

2. The following deliverables are expected under the assignment within the proposed timeframe:

   (i) An inception report (with highlights and key decisions reached at the inception workshop, the TORs for the research team for specific studies and a detailed work program with a specific timeframe for intermediate deliverables)—due 8 weeks after commencement of services (December 2008).

   (ii) A progress report with an executive summary covering key findings to date of the selected studies, a methodology description and data analysis, as well as emerging recommendations—due every 6 months after commencement of services (June 2009 and December 2009).
(iii) Draft of the final reports and power point presentations on key findings from studies—due 18 months after commencement of services (March 2010).
(iv) Final reports—due 20–22 months after commencement of services (June–July 2010).
(v) Arrangements for workshops and seminars (as agreed).
(vi) Recorded proceedings of TWG meetings, training workshops, and seminars.

C. Reporting Requirements, Responsibilities, and Information Disclosure

3. The consultant shall submit to ADB all reports and data as specified below.

(i) Submission of two paper copies and two electronic copies of all reports.
(ii) Submission of all data and/or surveys used in the studies to ADB for its use for further data analysis as needed.

4. The director general of RIS will be responsible for overseeing the quality of the research studies in coordination with a designated focal person for each study. He will work collaboratively with ADB, the international RCI specialist and research associates. He is responsible for communicating important issues affecting timely completion of the RETA to the TWG, through the RETA team leader (i.e., the ADB project officer).

5. ADB will provide support (i) through technical and/or peer review of the reports (ii) regular updates on RETA activities to developing member country governments, and (iii) by ensuring effective communication of policy findings to developing member countries.

6. After relevant comments have been received and incorporated, the final studies will be made available on the websites of the RIS, ADB and selected institutions.

D. International Consultant

1. RCI Specialist (6 person-months, intermittent)

7. The consultant will have working experience of issues related to international trade, regional cooperation and private sector development. S/he will be familiar with the work of research institutes in South Asia and have a good understanding of the political, institutional and operational mechanisms for promoting regional cooperation in South Asia.

8. The specialist will assist the RETA team leader in implementing RETA activities. The consultant will provide inputs intermittently—part-time when studies are being prepared and fulltime when studies have been drafted and need close review. In particular, the consultant will work closely with the RETA team leader to:

(i) Discuss and help finalize the scope of studies during the inception mission, and help draft an outline of the table of contents for the studies to be prepared.
(ii) Provide technical expertise to the RETA team leader in assessing the robustness of research methodologies, reviewing the adequacy of the literature review, and delivering appropriate research guidance in order to enhance the design of the surveys, data collection and preparation of quantitative and qualitative studies.
(iii) Participate in consultative exercises by ADB to review and refine findings and help develop practical recommendations for consideration by the region’s governments and other stakeholders.
(iv) Participate in workshops and seminars and other avenues for policy dialogue as required.
Appendix 3

(v) Assist the TWG in the midterm review of all studies.
(vi) Review and supervise the quality of the draft final studies and overview reports.
(vii) Provide detailed comments for further revisions, as required, to meet publication standards.
(viii) Prepare a concise analytical report to summarize the RETA process and its findings, and make recommendations for future work to be supported by ADB.

E. National Consultants

1. Research Team (100 person-months, intermittent)

9. The research team will comprise a multi-disciplinary team of trade economists, private sector and management specialists, finance, legal and regulatory experts from South Asia. A focal person for each study will be identified by RIS. The research team will have specialization in policy and operational issues related to foreign direct investment, technology and competitiveness, industrial policies, trade facilitation measures, identification of trade barriers, and legal and regulatory issues. They are expected to have a good understanding of the political, institutional and operational mechanisms for promoting regional cooperation in South Asia, preferably through relevant work experience, and are expected to use this to identify practical opportunities for regional collaboration. The consultants must have a good record of research publications in national and international journals, and must be capable of making lucid presentations and responding to questions on research findings from audiences comprising government officials, the private sector, and International Financing Institutions.

2. Administration and Coordination Specialist (12 person-months, intermittent)

10. The administration and coordination specialist will be responsible for assisting ADB in coordinating all activities under the RETA. The consultant will provide inputs intermittently and/or part-time, as required to:

   (i) Coordinate all activities under the RETA. This includes liaising with RIS, the RCI specialist and research associates, RETA administration, and monitoring progress.
   (ii) Coordinate the organization of seminars and workshops with counterparts at RIS.
   (iii) Draft official communication within ADB and with DMC governments.
   (iv) Assist RCI with fulfilling all contractual and financial obligations under the RETA.
   (v) Assist in the preparation, dissemination, and publication of TA outputs.