

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPLETION REPORT

Division: ERMF

TA No. and Name TA 5943-REG: 13 th Workshop on Asian Economic Outlook		Amount Approved: US\$200,000.00	
		Revised Amount:	
Executing Agency: ADB	Source of Funding: TASF	TA Amount Undisbursed US\$41,101.55	TA Amount Utilized US\$158,898.45
Date		Closing Date	
Approval 16 Oct 2000	Signing Fielding of Consultants	Original 30 April 2002	Actual 31 March 2002

Description

The TA convenes the 13th Workshop on Asian Economic Outlook in support of ADB's flagship publication, the Asian Development Outlook (ADO). Since 1989, the ADO has been published annually and it provides recent assessment of the economic trends for the world and for developing Asia. It also evaluates the medium-term prospects for ADB's developing member countries (DMCs). For this year, the ADO focuses on globalization and its effects on the region.

Objectives and Scope

The main objective of the TA is to provide analytical support and background information for the publication of ADO 2001. It aims to commission selected country studies that will examine (i) the recent (2000) economic performance; (ii) economic outlook for 2001 and 2002; (iii) issues in economic management; and (iv) policy and development issues. A special paper on Globalization was also prepared under this activity and became the theme focus of the 13th Workshop on Asian Economic Outlook. The DMCs covered by the country studies were Hong Kong, China; India; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Maldives; Myanmar; Nepal; Pakistan; People's Rep. of China; Sri Lanka; Taipei, China; Thailand; and Viet Nam.

Evaluation of Inputs

The logical framework provided effective indicators and operational guidelines. Improvements are needed to support new activities such as the regional launches, and web-based activities. In particular, we have to allocate budget for dissemination activities organized by various resident missions. Also, the web-based activities of AEO/ADO need to be closely coordinated with OER activities and other technical issues related to RETA-based websites as well as the ADB website need to be sorted out.

Evaluation of Outputs

The 13th AEO Workshop, held on 27-28 November 2000, brought together research scholars from the academic world, policymakers from the DMCs, leading economists from research institutes, and representatives from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank (via videoconferencing). The workshop created an effective forum for an exchange of views on: i) the economic outlook for Asia and the world, ii) the on-going recovery process in Asia, iii) the effects of globalization on Asia, iv) risks to Asian recovery including the social aspects and long-term policy issues. The presentation of the outlook for the Pacific also highlighted ADB's new strategy and development challenges in the Pacific region. The dissemination activities for the ADO provided widespread coverage of the publication as well as the development efforts and views of the ADB on the region. The ADO 2001 Update which was released November 2001 provided a timely recap of economic developments in the region following the September 11 terrorist attacks on the US. Feedback has been very good.

Overall Assessment and Rating

The TA was rated highly successful. All the country studies and theme papers submitted met the requirements set by the Economics and Development Resource Center (EDRC). These papers offered in-depth analyses of recent economic developments and medium-term outlook for selected developing economies of Asia. The papers presented on the thematic issues of the workshop provided an exhaustive treatment of the on-going policy debate and contentious issues related to each of the topics.

Major Lessons Learned

It was noted that during the implementation stage, several questions were raised regarding the structure and design of the TA. This is in relation to the changing requirement of the ADO and new format for the workshop.

Recommendations and Follow-Up Actions

Follow-up action consisted of dissemination activities, including updates and preparatory work for the next ADO. Recommendation was to incorporate ADO and ADO Update activities in the TA paper. In particular, focus will be given to country presentation during the Workshop and inclusion of model comparison for the different countries to evaluate likely scenarios and impact of policy reforms on these economies. The logistical support for the ADO and the ADO Update will also be integrated in the TA paper.

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