

TA COMPLETION REPORT

Division : ENVD

TA NO./NAME : TA NO. 2299-MAL: Strengthening of Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development				TA AMOUNT APPROVED : \$142,000	SOURCE: TASF
				REVISED AMOUNT :	
EXECUTING AGENCIES : Economic Planning Unit (EPU) of the Prime Minister's Department				TA AMOUNT UNDISB. : \$32,329.14	TA AMOUNT UTILIZED : \$ 109,670.86
DATE :	APPROVAL :	SIGNING :	FIELD :	CLOSING :	
	14 Feb 1995	28 Sep 1995	31 Aug 1995	ORIGINAL : 31 Aug 1995	ACTUAL : 31 Oct 1995

TA DESCRIPTION

In response to Malaysia's rapid economic growth, it is necessary to ensure that appropriate policies and plans are in place to anticipate and deal with increasing environmental degradation problems so as to minimize adverse environmental effects and to achieve sustainable development. While the Government is making efforts to formulate strategies and plans for sustainable development, appropriate institutional framework needs to be established to implement them. Although several government ministries and agencies are concerned with environmental problems, these institutions seem to have some overlapping environment-related roles, and some institutions' capacity may not allow them to discharge satisfactorily their expected role. While current institutions were set up during the 1970s when the emphasis was on cleaning up pollution, the emphasis in the Government strategy has changed to integrated and preventive approach through policy coordination and the increased use of market mechanisms in environmental management. In addition, the relationship in environmental fields between the Federal Government and the States may need streaming and consolidation. The TA was provided to assist the Government in examining an appropriate institutional framework for environmental initiatives in Malaysia.

TA OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

The main objectives of the TA are to assess the appropriateness of current institutional mechanisms relating to environment and development in Malaysia and to propose suitable institutional framework alternatives for implementing sustainable development initiatives in Malaysia. The scope included (i) review of the existing institutions undertaking environmental initiatives, (ii) preparation of alternate institutional frameworks with detailed responsibilities of each institution in their environmental activities, (iii) recommendation of ways and capacity building for the institutions, and (iv) coordination with preparatory activities for the Seventh Malaysia Plan.

TA INPUTS EVALUATION

Although the TOR included broad and comprehensive scopes, the consultant followed them closely and covered all items included. The Bank supervised the TA closely at all stages, and the draft final report reflects the Bank's input. A Review Mission participated in tripartite meetings of both the inception and final reports. The intergovernmental committee was organized for this Project and the consultant made necessary inputs. The recipient provided adequate facilities and counterpart support. The implementation schedule was extended by two months to allow sufficient time for coordinating with local consultants and preparing the final report, because the original project term (three months) was too short for this comprehensive work.

TA OUTPUTS EVALUATION

The final report was prepared in compliance with the TOR. The report clearly identified the problems of the current institutional framework and proposed recommendations on key issues such as policy and planning, implementation, and training and skills upgrading. However, more detailed and concrete recommendations could have been proposed, taking into account necessary funds and human resources. The findings of the study are expected to be used in the preparation of specific proposals to be financed under the Malaysian Seventh Five-Year Plan from 1996 to 2000.

TA OVERALL ASSESSMENT/RATING

The consultant provided adequate expertise and maintained a good relationship with EPU. The consultants complied with the requirements of the TOR. The TA can be rated as generally successful.

MAJOR LESSONS LEARNED

It was useful and meaningful to organize the intergovernmental committee which consisted of relevant ministries and agencies for better coordination.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Bank monitor the utilization of the TA results for the preparation of specific proposals to be financed under the Seventh Malaysia Plan (1996-2000).