

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPLETION REPORT<sup>1</sup>

Division : PARD/PAHQ

TA No. 3426-SOL: Preparing the Nonformal Vocational Education and Training Project (PPTA)		Amount Approved: \$250,000	
		Revised Amount: N/A	
Executing Agency: Department of Development Planning (DDP)	Source of Funding: ADB funded TA program	Amount Undisbursed: \$249,980	Amount Utilized: \$20
TA Approval: 06 Apr 2000	TA Signing: 22 Apr 2000	Fielding of First Consultant: 26 May 2000	TA Completion Date Original: 31 Jan 2001      Actual: 30 Nov 2001 Revised: 30 Nov 2001 Account Closing Date Original: 31 Jan 2001      Actual: 30 Apr 2003 Revised: 30 Nov 2001
<p><b>Description:</b> The adult literacy rate in Solomon Islands is estimated at 30 percent. About 80 percent of the population lives in rural areas. Their livelihood is still predominantly subsistence-oriented, but they are faced with increasing need to meet cash obligations. Income earning opportunities are few and formal sector employment opportunities, mainly concentrated in urban areas, are insufficient to absorb the annually increasing number of school leavers who complete secondary education. Hence, out-of-school youth need to be absorbed by the informal/micro-enterprise sector, about which very little information is available. This informal sector, however, is perceived by the Government as holding the solution to the unemployment problem. The Government Medium-Term Development Plan 1999-2002 thus identifies non-formal education (NFE) as a key factor in the development of the country's rural areas. The provision of appropriate basic vocational skills, especially for women and youth, is considered necessary for both the improvement of living conditions and the introduction or enhancement of potential income-generating activities. Localized delivery of relevant NFE is also recognized as a means of slowing down or even reversing urban migration. There is no Government policy or national strategic plan for the delivery of NFE, leaving the Department of Human Resources Development (DEHRD) without guidance in its task to oversee NFE. The delivery of non-formal vocational skills, subsumed under NFE, is the responsibility of churches, NGOs, and community-based organizations, which efforts are frequently unrecorded, uncoordinated, unstructured, and supply driven.</p> <p><b>Expected Impact, Outcome and Outputs:</b> The objective of the TA is to assist the Government in preparing a Non-formal Vocational Education and Training Project for possible ADB financing. The focus of the Project is to ensure a sustainable increase in the delivery of quality non-formal vocational education and training to rural areas, with a focus on women and youth. This is expected to contribute to the overall long-term development objective of employment creation through private sector development. Outputs of the TA include (i) a draft NFE policy, (ii) an assessment of the supply and demand for non-formal vocational training, and (iii) a design of a sustainable funding mechanism for NFE.</p> <p><b>Delivery of Inputs and Conduct of Activities:</b> The TA supported 6 person months of international consulting services and 10 person months of national consulting services. It also included (i) one training workshop on current NFE issues, (ii) seven policy formulation workshops at provincial and national levels, and (iii) one project planning workshop with representation from all relevant stakeholders. Shortly following the signing of the TA (April 2000) and recruitment of the first consultant (May 2000), a coup was staged in Solomon Islands accompanied by political and civil unrest. Start-up of TA activities was thus suspended, along with the entire country program. In January 2001, the TA paper was circulated to the Board as the situation began to show some signs of improvement to allow proceeding with TA implementation. An extension of the TA from November 2001 to December 2002 was even considered, in order that ADB may re-enter the country once the situation improved. Ultimately, due to the continued volatile situation, the management of the Pacific Department decided to cancel and close the TA. The TA was subsequently cancelled in 30 Apr 2003. The TA activities thus never commenced. A pre-mobilization advance of \$7,000 was initially disbursed to the Consultant. This was subsequently recovered as the Consultant was never fielded. A total of \$20 was disbursed towards consultant's miscellaneous travel expenses.</p> <p><b>Evaluation of Outputs and Achievement of Outcome:</b> N/A. No activities were carried out due to civil unrest and the TA was subsequently cancelled.</p>			

<sup>1</sup> In preparing any country program or strategy, financing any project, or by making any designation of or reference to a particular territory or geographic area in this document, the Asian Development Bank does not intend to make any judgments as to the legal or other status of any territory or area.

**Overall Assessment and Rating:** N/A. No activities were carried out due to civil unrest and the TA was subsequently cancelled.

**Major Lessons:** Proper assessment of risks and mitigation measures should be undertaken during TA/ project fact-finding, along with contingency plans in volatile political situations. (Requirements of the DMF and associated risks assessment had not been under implementation at the time.)

**Recommendations and Follow-Up Actions:** N/A

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