

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

Division: RSID

Division: RSD

<b>TA No. and Name</b> TA 6219-REG Promoting Effective Water Management Policies and Practices - Phase 4			<b>Amount Approved:</b> US\$5.6 million		
			<b>Revised Amount:</b> not applicable		
<b>Executing Agency:</b> ADB		<b>Source of Funding:</b> Cooperation Fund for the Water Sector (the Fund)		<b>TA Amount Undisbursed</b> US\$405,686	<b>TA Amount Utilized</b> US\$5,194,314
<b>Approval</b> 20 December 2004		<b>Date</b>		<b>Completion Date</b>	
		<b>Signing</b>		<b>Original</b>	
		Not applicable		30 April 2006	
		<b>Fielding of Consultants</b>		<b>Actual</b>	
		13 January 2005		30 April 2008	
				<b>Closing Date</b>	
				<b>Original</b>	
				December 2008	
				<b>Actual</b>	
				June 2009	
<b>Description</b> ADB's <i>Water for All</i> policy, approved in January 2001, promotes national water sector reforms, integrated water resources management (IWRM), and better water services for the poor. It commits ADB to regional and subregional cooperation by assisting water sector assessments and exchange of data, enhancing awareness and understanding of country water sector issues and needs, and supporting water partnerships in developing member countries (DMCs). In December 2001, ADB Board approved the establishment of the Cooperation Fund for the Water Sector (the Fund), a multidonor umbrella facility to promote effective water management policies and practices at the regional, subregional, and country levels; and to catalyze the implementation of ADB's water policy by financing a coherent program of activities. The Board Paper stipulates, among others, that the Fund resources are to be accessed through regional TAs (RETAs). Since 2002, four RETAs have been approved under the Fund: (i) TA 6031 for \$4 million (Phase 1) which implemented initial activities under the Fund; (ii) TA 6093 for \$1 million (Phase 2) which supported the organization of the 3rd World Water Forum held in Japan in March 2003, including all preparatory in-country workshops and consultations leading to the Forum; and (iii) TA 6123 for \$4.3 million (Phase 3) which supported activities in line with the Water Sector Committee's (WSC) medium-term strategy. A succeeding RETA was processed (this RETA 6219) constituting Phase 4 to continue the program activities and commitments earlier made at an amount of \$5.6 million.					
<b>Expected Impact, Outcome and Outputs</b> The impact that the TA aimed to achieve was effective water management policies and practices adopted by DMCs, guided by ADB's "Water for All" policy. Poverty reduction was a crosscutting objective underpinning the activities, which were targeted at a range of stakeholders in the region. Increased synergy in ADB's overall water sector operations (internal) and improved public awareness of water issues (external) were the targeted TA outcomes. The TA scope covers activities under the following six categories of the Fund: (i) promotion and public awareness; (ii) knowledge base and capacity building; (iii) pilot and demonstration activities (PDAs); (iv) water partnerships; (v) regional events and initiatives; and (vi) program coordination, monitoring, and evaluation.					
<b>Delivery of Inputs and Conduct of Activities</b> The \$5.6 million TA amount was used to support activities under the six categories of the Fund. The Agriculture, Natural Resources and Social Sector Division or RSAN (now Sustainable Infrastructure Division or RSID) in the Regional and Sustainable Development Department (RSDD), in collaboration with concerned divisions in the regional departments (RDs), was responsible for the TA activities. In the case of PDAs, however, ADB entered into separate letters of agreement with each selected national or international organization or NGO, which was designated as the executing agency for such PDA and responsible for implementing and completing it. The Water Sector Committee (reorganized to Water Committee in 2006) actively guided the Fund use, and coordinated, monitored and prioritized activities. The water sector network (reorganized into Water Community of Practice in 2006) served as consultation forum. About 111 person-months of international and 200 person-months of domestic consultants provided					

<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.

sufficient and satisfactory inputs on policy, institutional, technical, economic, and financial disciplines in water-related areas of institutional development, capacity building, knowledge management, water resource management, resource regulation and delivery, information systems, public awareness, and water sector reform. The overall performance of consultants engaged under the RETA has been assessed as being satisfactory.

#### **Evaluation of Outputs and Achievement of Outcome**

**Promotion and Public Awareness.** This program provided continued support to change the attitudes and mindsets of major stakeholders on water issues through water awareness and advocacy products, applying a variety of media including water website, documentary films for television broadcast in DMCs, exhibits, journalists' workshops, short articles, and regional newsletter. The Water Awareness Program (WAP) developed a framework for disseminating key messages and information on ADB's water policy and increased public awareness and stakeholder dialogue on water reform issues. An independent review of the WAP revealed: (i) regular use of the website; (ii) WAP products are recommended to other potential users; (iii) information from the regional newsletter are regularly used by DMC policy makers in meetings with their staff; (iv) high use of Water Voices documentaries in training and workshops; and (v) media workshops are improving journalists' ability to write on water issues and enhancing coverage on water.

**Knowledge Base and Capacity Building.** This program helped DMC counterparts and ADB staff to improve and hone knowledge and skills in water operations through capacity development including at key water events, use of tools and knowledge products to aid sector dialogues, assessments and other ADB-DMC processes for improving partnerships. The in-country conferences on the Water Financing Program in Indonesia and Viet Nam developed a clear and shared understanding on the directions for strengthening the partnership between both countries and ADB in the water sector, and identified specific lending and non-lending activities for inclusion in the pipeline of projects for ADB support in the short and medium-term. The Water Catchment series and seminars at ADB HQ provided platform for sharing knowledge and strengthening networking among members of ADB's Water Community of Practice.

**Pilot and Demonstration Activity.** This small-grants program continued to help operations departments to introduce, develop, validate, and demonstrate new or innovative, highly replicable development approaches in delivering water services and managing water resources. A total of nine PDAs on groundwater rejuvenation, gender-sensitive and sustainable sanitation, school-led water supply, IWRM, flood management, urban water supply, hygiene promotion, and local partnerships for water and sanitation were funded and successfully implemented.

**Water Partnerships.** This program supported existing and new partnerships for IWRM and water services, knowledge management, capacity-building, water reform, and institutional development, as follows: (i) Southeast Asia Water Utilities Network to improved performance of water utilities in the region; (ii) Water for the Poor–Partnerships for Action to sharpen the pro-poor focus of ADB's and DMCs' water operations; (iii) Network of Asian River Basin Organizations to improve governance of water resources at the river basin level; (iv) National Water Sector Apex Bodies to facilitate reform measures and strengthen sector coordination; (v) Mayor's Asia-Pacific Environmental Summit (MAPES) to improve capacity of local governments; (vi) Global Water Partnership (GWP) to further facilitate implementation of IWRM; (vii) Cities Alliance and GTZ to address urban water supply, sanitation and wastewater management in the context of urban development; (viii) WaterAid to strengthen the role of civil society; (ix) South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) to improve water resources management in the Pacific, including climate change adaptation; (x) Scientific Information Center of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination in Central Asia for the establishment of the Gender and Water Network (GWANET); (xi) UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board (UNSGAB) to implement the Hashimoto Action Plan; and (xii) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to assess private sector participation in water supply.

**Regional Events and Initiatives.** This program supported the organization of and participation in international water events, thus providing ADB staff and DMC counterparts the opportunity to improve their capacity. ADB staff made presentations at important water fora, thereby raising water awareness, building capacity, strengthening partnerships, learning from development partners' activities, facilitating networking and exchange of ideas, and raising ADB's profile. The participation to and/or organization of regional events helped to catalyze the implementation of ADB's water policy, and increased synergy in ADB's water operations.

**Program Coordination, Monitoring, and Evaluation.** The comprehensive review of ADB's water policy implementation assessed the progress and performance; identified challenges, investment requirements,

and opportunities; and resulted to the following key recommendations: (i) increase ADB's commitments and develop ADB's capacities; (ii) develop long-term partnerships with DMC stakeholders and donors; (iii) focus the implementation of IWRM on stakeholder needs and ownership; (iv) promote "business unusual" - leveraging innovations to increase access, affordability, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness; and (v) improve processes to ensure effective policy implementation - improving ADB's internal communications and procedures, coordination with DMCs on CSP (now CPS) process and national planning, and monitoring and evaluation efforts to mitigate social and environmental impacts of ADB projects. This program also supported the TA's overall administration; and the monitoring and reporting system for the Fund's activities. *Overall, the TA outputs made a distinct impact on ADB's water operations, raised awareness on critical water issues, strengthened regional cooperation, added value to the implementation of ADB's water policy, raised ADB's profile, increased capacities of ADB staff and DMC counterparts, and showcased the importance and quality of work in the water sector. Implementation of activities is considered satisfactory, with good achievements under each of the six categories. The lessons learned from RETA implementation provided the foundation for the establishment of the Water Financing Partnership Facility.*

#### **Overall Assessment and Rating**

The TA is assessed as successful.

#### **Major Lessons**

The additional resources provided through the RETA added value to ADB's water operations, improved the quality of project design and implementation, and deepened ADB's engagement with countries and development partners in terms of (i) policy dialogue to accelerate reform measures, and (ii) advancing discussions and debates on critical sector issues including those that may not be adequately addressed within the scope of investment projects. Due to the intersectoral nature of water operations in the DMCs and within ADB, continued advocacy is needed to support the formulation of integrated investment packages with policy dialogue, reforms and capacity development in a concerted manner, and to reflect these in the country programming processes and outputs. The examples in Indonesia and Viet Nam have shown how country water financing programs can be pursued, supported by water (sector) roadmaps or assessments. The use of PDAs has demonstrated opportunities for innovation in the design of investment projects by the operations departments.

#### **Recommendations and Follow-Up Actions**

The TA, as part of a series of TAs processed by RSDD under the Cooperation Fund for the Water Sector, has generated additional grant resources to support ADB's Water for All Policy and Water Financing Program. RSDD continues its work to mobilize additional TA resources under the Water Financing Partnership Facility for this purpose, guided by the Water Committee and CoP.

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