



# Technical Assistance Report

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Project Number: 45159  
Research and Development Technical Assistance (RDТА)  
November 2011

## Asian Development Review 2012–2013

## ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
ADR	–	<i>Asian Development Review</i>
ARN	–	Asia Research Network
DER	–	Department of External Relations
ERD	–	Economics and Research Department
SSCI	–	social science citation index
TA	–	Technical Assistance

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CLASSIFICATION

<b>Type</b>	– Research and development technical assistance (RDTA)
<b>Targeting classification</b>	– General intervention
<b>Sector</b>	– Multisector
<b>Themes (subthemes)</b>	– <b>Economic growth</b> (promoting macroeconomic stability, promoting economic efficiency and enabling business environment); environmental sustainability (natural resources conservation, eco-efficiency); regional cooperation and integration (money and finance); private sector development (policy reforms),
<b>Location (impact)</b>	– Regional (high)

## NOTE

In this report, "\$" refers to US dollars.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The *Asian Development Review* (ADR) is the scholarly journal of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Strategy 2020 mandates that ADB engage in forward-looking research in support of knowledge creation for its developing member countries.<sup>1</sup>

2. The rationale for this technical assistance (TA) is that ADB needs to position the ADR as a key venue for publication and distribution of scholarly research on topics relevant to ADB's institutional franchise.<sup>2</sup> It aims to gradually increase the level of awareness of the ADR and enhance its reputation in both academic and policy-making circles by ensuring that articles are written with academic rigor and that policy implications and prescriptions are based on sound theoretical considerations, backed by empirical evidence.<sup>3</sup> The design and monitoring framework is in Appendix 1.

## II. ISSUES

3. **Declining awareness and readership of the *Asian Development Review*.** The ADR has a history of good readership and reputation for quality in both academic and policy-making circles. Its decline in readership and circulation from 2002 to 2010 is most likely attributable to the rise of a number of alternative journals, likewise specializing in development issues, which are accredited in the social science citation index (SSCI). Since universities and other academic institutions use publications in SSCI-listed journals as the main criteria for tenure and promotion, ADR's status as a non-SSCI journal makes it less attractive to academic researchers as a venue for communicating scholarly work. An SSCI listing is akin to a seal of Good Housekeeping, ensuring that a journal adheres to set standards. Economists in the region have better incentives to publish in SSCI-listed journals in order to gain credibility as experts among the academic community as well as in policy-making circles. The waning attractiveness of the ADR as a venue for publication also negatively affects readership, since researchers tend to lexicographically order their reading toward SSCI-listed journals before going to other alternatives. The declining awareness of the ADR as a reference material for scholarly research on Asian development issues is a long-term consequence of its waning attractiveness as a venue for publication and its chronic decline in readership.

4. **Need to raise the profile of the *Asian Development Review*.** In line with Strategy 2020, raising the profile of ADR is important for the operationalization of ADB's strategy. The ADR provides a venue for publication of rigorous research that adheres to academic standards, and is a potentially effective tool to support ADB's position as one of the region's premier knowledge centers.

5. **Inclusion in the social science citation index listing.** In order to raise ADR's profile, it must be included in the SSCI listing. To achieve this, articles in the ADR must be at least as rigorously written as those published in other SSCI-listed journals covering similar or related research topics. To ensure that an adequate number of scholarly articles are acquired, ADB can invite other Asian research institutions to collaborate with it to achieve the goal of attaining an SSCI listing. In order to increase the number of high-quality, scholarly submissions the ADR

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<sup>1</sup> ADB.2008. *Strategy 2020: The Long-Term Strategic Framework of the Asian Development Bank, 2008–2020*. Manila.

<sup>2</sup> The concept paper was approved by the Office of the Chief Economist, Economics and Research Department in October 2011.

<sup>3</sup> The TA first appeared in the business opportunities section of ADB's website on 12 October 2011.

must strengthen its review and editorial capacity, initially through the inclusion of heads of partner research institutions on the editorial board. The marketing and distribution of the ADR must be intensified to ensure that a virtuous cycle of submissions that comply with the minimum academic rigor, journal citations, and readership, are obtained in the medium term.

### **III. THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

#### **A. Impact and Outcome**

6. The research and development TA will raise the profile of ADB's flagship research publications to further enhance ADB's reputation as a knowledge center in the region. It will also expand ADB's influence on policy making in the region through scholarly research based on sound theoretical frameworks and whose policy implications are backed by rigorous empirical evidence. A listing in the SSCI, an increased number of citations, and ADR's impact factor will be indicators of ADB's recognition as a knowledge center in the region.

7. The outcome of enhanced quality of article submissions will be achieved through more stringent editorial controls and tightened standards. Together with improved distribution, this should increase ADR's readership within the first year of the RDTA. Minimum requirements on the quality of articles, required for SSCI listing, will be imposed by the latter half of the second year of the RDTA. The demand for the ADR and its contents will be gauged primarily by the number of views and downloads of its electronic format and the number of print subscriptions. ADB is targeting an annual increase of 15% in the number of views and downloads of the electronic format and 10% in the number of subscriptions.

8. The TA will result in the medium-term objective of having the ADR listed in the SSCI. Given ADR's current state, scholars have a disincentive to submit their work as they will not receive the publication points they need for tenure and promotion. ADR's inclusion in the SSCI will effectively remove this disincentive and increase the number of quality article submissions. Among other requirements, the Thomson Reuters assessment process for inclusion in the SSCI requires three successive issues of a candidate journal to be submitted.<sup>4</sup> The application process for SSCI listing will therefore take 2 years, as ADB intends to initially issue the ADR biannually.

#### **B. Methodology and Key Activities**

9. To facilitate the acquisition of scholarly articles, conferences will be held in 2012 and 2013 for each biannual issue of the ADR. Four months before the conferences, six experts in a specific field will be invited to conduct research on topics consistent with ADB's research agenda. Upon acceptance of the invitation, each researcher will be given a specific research topic for which he or she shall submit a research proposal within the first month of engagement. After a proposal review and acceptance, the researcher will conduct the research and submit a draft article within 4 months. Two resource persons will be engaged a month before the conference to comment and provide constructive input on the drafts. The conferences provide a venue for researchers to present their papers so that the resource persons and editorial staff can provide comments and suggestions for improvement. A panel discussion will also be held to ensure a robust interchange of ideas. At the end of the conference, each researcher will have close to two months to revise and finalize their papers and submit final copies to the editorial office for review and acceptance. The ADR publishes electronic copies in June and December

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<sup>4</sup> Thomson Reuters owns SSCI

of each year. Printed copies are subject to a 2-month delay due to logistics. All articles published in the ADR shall adhere to standards similar to those imposed on leading SSCI-listed journals. Details of the timetables for the engagement of consultants, conferences, and journal releases are in Appendix 1.

10. The TA is related to the proposed development of an Asia Research Network (ARN), emulating the Global Development Network, which was initially sponsored by the World Bank. This initiative could potentially yield large benefits to ADB and its research partners. ERD aims to adopt the Global Development Network model to develop a network of researchers, including ADB staff, in Asia and the Pacific. The pool of researchers within the ARN is a potential source of expertise for research on specific topics, with the objective of publishing journal-quality articles in the ADR. The ADR will initiate a call for papers within the ARN at least 8 months before the next publication date. All submissions will be subjected to the same peer review and editorial process to ensure that minimum standards are met.

11. ERD will explore the possibility of working with ADB-related institutions, such as the Asian Development Bank Institute, to facilitate the process of raising ADR's profile. If ERD could organize two to four conferences together with these institutions, they could yield a significant number of scholarly papers, which could be published in regular or special issues of the ADR. If this is done regularly, then the ADR could increase the number of issues it published in any given year beyond the current two to perhaps three or four, without significantly increasing its resource requirements.

12. The objective of increased readership and number of journal citations will be supported by heightened marketing and distribution efforts to academics, policy makers, and nonpartisan, nonpolitical research institutions. Partnerships with the latter shall be explored, especially if these do not maintain their own academic research publications. Distribution will be enhanced by working with a reputable academic publisher (e.g., Oxford University Press, Elsevier Science) and journal databases like EBSCO Information Services. Engaging a professional publisher also increases visibility since it normally promotes its clientele as well as providing productivity and monitoring platforms (i.e., an electronic document submission system, an author and referee tracking system, and a citation counter). An SSCI listing will further improve electronic accessibility.

13. The ADR will be made available in electronic and print formats. Until an academic publisher is engaged, the electronic format will be made available through ADB's website for free, and will be promoted in coordination with the Department of External Relations (DER). ERD will coordinate with DER on strategies for the promotion and distribution of printed and electronic copies of the ADR. Printed copies of the ADR will be priced to recover the costs of printing and distribution.

14. ERD staff will manage the TA. International experts will be hired to conduct research and submit articles for publication. Consultants will also be engaged to act as resource persons and to provide comments and suggestions, in effect acting as peer reviewers. In addition to consultants and resource persons, a copy editor will also be hired. The scope of work and outline of the terms of reference for international and national consultants are in Appendix 2. All consultants and resource persons will be engaged in accordance with ADB's Guidelines on the Use of Consultants (2010, as amended from time to time).

15. Although the ADR is currently planned for a biannual release, ERD will explore the possibility of special or supplementary issues, possibly through a partnership agreement with

other departments within ADB, ADB-related institutions, and nonpartisan and politically neutral research institutions. The department is also considering hiring a managing editor, given the projected increase in the volume of articles that will need to be reviewed. He or she will be given incentives to bring the ADR into the SSCI listing within 2–3 years.

16. **Risks and assumptions.** The desired outcome of an SSCI listing presupposes sustaining the quality of articles and ADR's editorial processes. Over the timeframe of the TA, a key risk is the unavailability or lack of interest of top-tier technical experts and consultants to participate in workshops and subsequently generate high-quality articles. Another risk, albeit a more manageable one, is the potential incompatibility of expertise between primary investigators and resource persons. The above magnifies the risk of a commissioned paper's failure to meet the minimum standards required of SSCI-listed journals. Another risk is the lack of effective or inadequate promotion and distribution channels, which pose constraints on desired outcomes even if an SSCI listing is obtained. One upside is the possibility of internally sourcing ADR articles from papers produced within ADB's departments and Communities of Practice. Assuming these pass editorial review, they would provide a cost-effective source of quality content.<sup>5</sup> Given the above considerations, the risk that experts will be unavailable will be mitigated through a sufficiently long lead time for journal issues. Relevant and effective feedback from resource persons will be obtained during and after conferences and workshops. Lastly, it is assumed that the overwhelming majority of research papers will meet the minimum requirement for scholarly articles, given effective peer review and editorial processes.

### **C. Cost and Financing**

17. The TA is estimated to cost \$500,000 equivalent, and will be financed on a grant basis by ADB's Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF-IV). The cost estimates and financing plan are in Appendix 2.

### **D. Implementation Arrangements**

18. The TA will begin on 15 December 2011 and will be completed by 28 February 2014. The closing date should be 30 June 2014. ADB will be the executing agency, and the Office of the Chief Economist within ERD will take the lead in the implementation. ERD will coordinate with DER in the publication, promotion, and distribution of electronic and printed copies of the ADR.

19. A part-time editorial consultant (international) will be engaged for 24 months to assist editorial staff with charting the attainment of medium-term objectives for the ADR, inclusive of editorial process improvements and editorial board changes. He or she will also provide support for the improvement of article quality and ADR readership. The option of having a full-time editor is under consideration, but must be approached through alliance building (para. 15). The use of a professional publisher (e.g., Oxford University Press) will be considered, since this would provide extensive marketing and promotion.

20. Eight international consultants will be engaged every 6 months during the TA's implementation period. Of the eight, six will conduct research and present findings, and each will submit a scholarly article for publication at the end of the sixth month. Two consultants will

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<sup>5</sup> Incentive systems for ADB staff whose papers successfully pass editorial review could be defined together with ADB's Budget, Personnel and Management Systems Department.

act as resource persons, providing comments and guidance to researchers on the conduct, progress, and output of their research. A total of 32 international consultants and resource persons will be engaged for the duration of the TA for the purpose of generating scholarly articles for the ADR. Each consultant will be engaged on a lump-sum basis for 6 months, and is expected to adhere to the submission schedule for drafts and final submissions.<sup>6</sup> Variable rates of lump-sum compensation, based on the track record of scholarly publications and prevailing market rates for this type of engagement will be offered to researchers and resource persons.

21. A national consultant will be engaged for 20 months to act as copy editor and provide support in coordinating with ADR's editorial board. In addition, short-term administrative assistants will be hired as needed.

22. All international and national consultants will be engaged in accordance with ADB's Guidelines on the Use of Consultants (2010, as amended from time to time). The national consultant will be based at ADB headquarters in Manila. The terms of reference for the consultants are in Appendix 3.

23. Disbursement under the TA will be made in accordance with ADB's *Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook* (2010, as amended from time to time).

#### **IV. THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION**

24. The President, acting under the authority delegated by the Board, has approved the provision of technical assistance not exceeding the equivalent of \$500,000 on a grant basis for the *Asian Development Review* 2012–2013, and hereby reports this action to the Board.

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<sup>6</sup> Please refer to page 9 of ADB's *Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook* (2010, as amended from time to time).

## DESIGN AND MONITORING FRAMEWORK

Design Summary	Performance Targets and Indicators with Baselines	Data Sources and Reporting Mechanisms	Assumptions and Risks
<b>Impact</b>  Increased recognition of ADB as a knowledge center	Increased number of journal citations and increasing impact factor	Thomson Reuters, if SSCI listed	<b>Assumptions</b>  Availability of experts in the topics for research  Acquisition of relevant feedback from conference participants  <b>Risks</b>  Unavailability or lack of interest among known experts in the specific areas of research  Mismatch in the expertise of researchers and resource persons
<b>Outcome</b>  Wider dissemination and readership of the ADR after the first year of the TA  Meeting the minimum requirements for quality of articles, leading to an SSCI listing by Dec 2013	Increased demand for the electronic format of the ADR by at least 15% each year for 2012 and 2013, as evidenced by number of views and downloads  Increase in the number of subscriptions to the ADR by at least 10% each year for 2012 and 2013	Number of downloads  Number of subscriptions	<b>Assumptions</b>  Increased awareness of the revamped ADR  Article submissions meet the minimum standards used by SSCI-listed journals  <b>Risks</b>  Inadequate promotions and distribution channels to support the objective of raising the profile of the ADR  Bulk of the article submission fail to meet minimum standards used for top-tier refereed journals



Design Summary	Performance Targets and Indicators with Baselines	Data Sources and Reporting Mechanisms	Assumptions and Risks
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At least four conferences for 2012 to 2013</li> <li>2. At least four issues of the ADR, each containing at least eight scholarly articles, and a summary of conference and workshop proceedings</li> </ol>	<p>Scholarly research submitted for review and publication at specified dates</p> <p>Electronic and printed issues of the ADR released to the public at the announced dates</p>	<p>Consultants' submissions and resource persons' commentaries</p> <p>Content upload dates to the appropriate servers (Office of Information Systems and Technology)</p> <p>Reports from ADR's publisher on ship dates of subscription copies</p>	<p><b>Assumptions</b></p> <p>The ADR will be published twice a year (a quarterly publication may be possible under certain conditions, please refer to section D on Implementation Arrangements)</p> <p>Research output in line with the consultants' terms of reference</p> <p>Final reports for publication meet the standards of SSCI-listed academic journals</p> <p><b>Risks</b></p> <p>Submissions fail to meet the minimum requirements of a top-tier refereed journal</p> <p>Delays in submission of intermediate and final output</p>

<b>Activities with Milestones</b>	<b>Inputs</b> <b>ADB: \$500,000 Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF-IV)</b>	
	<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount (\$'000)</b>
Approval of TA—15 Dec 2011		
1.1 Engage consultants for Jun 2012 publication—Jan 2012		
1.2 Conference for Jun 2012 publication—Apr 2012		
1.3 Engage consultants for Dec 2012 publication—Apr 2012		
1.4 Conference for Dec 2012 publication—Oct 2012	1. International consultants (184 person months)	331.40
1.5 Engage consultants for June 2013 publication—Nov 2012	2. National consultants (20 person-months)	20.00
1.6 Conference for Jun 2013 publication—Apr 2013	3. International travel	43.20
1.7 Engage consultants for the Dec 2013 issue—Apr 2013	4. Conferences	12.60
1.8 Conference for the Dec 2013 publication—Oct 2013	5. Miscellaneous administrative and support costs	60.00
2.1 Release of Jun 2012 issue of ADR—Jun 2012 (e-doc), Aug 2012 (print)	6. Contingency	32.80
2.2 Release of Dec 2012 issue of the ADR—Dec 2012 (e-doc), Feb 2013 (print)		
2.3 Release of Jun 2013 issue—Jun 2013 (e-doc), Aug 2013 (print)		
2.4 Release of Dec 2013 issue—Dec 2013 (e-doc), Feb 2014 (print)		
Closing of TA—30 Jun 2014		

ADB = Asian Development Bank, ADR = *Asian Development Review*, SSCI = social science citation index, TA = technical assistance

Source: Asian Development Bank.

**COST ESTIMATES AND FINANCING PLAN**  
(\$'000)

<b>Item</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
<b>Asian Development Bank<sup>a</sup></b>	
1. Consultants remuneration and per diem	
a. International consultants	331.40
b. National consultants	20.00
c. International travel	43.20
2. Conferences <sup>b</sup>	12.60
3. Miscellaneous administration and support costs <sup>b</sup>	60.00
4. Contingencies	32.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>500.00</b>

<sup>a</sup> Financed by the Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF-IV) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

<sup>b</sup> The default conference venue is ADB headquarters in Manila. ADB staff may have to travel if one or more of the conferences are held elsewhere, or if the development of the editorial enhancement and distribution networks for the Asian Development Review is warranted.

<sup>c</sup> Includes publication, communications, and office consumable costs.

Source: Asian Development Bank estimates.

## OUTLINE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANTS

### A. International Consultants

#### 1. Development Economists (24 international, 6 person-months each)

1. Under the supervision of the project team leader in ERD, 24 economists (exact number dependent on availability of domain experts in predetermined topics) will be engaged to conduct research and prepare reports for discussion and eventual publication in the *Asian Development Review* (ADR). The consultants shall be engaged in four batches, each for a duration of 6 months, corresponding to the time it takes to prepare a biannual issue of the ADR. The development economists will have:

- (i) a PhD in Economics;
- (ii) expert knowledge of growth and development issues in Asia;
- (iii) domain knowledge on a predetermined topic under a research theme to be defined by ERD;
- (iv) a proven capacity for both quantitative and policy-oriented analysis; and
- (v) a proven capacity for synthesizing complex issues and identifying key policy messages for policy makers, donors, and other stakeholders.

2. Each of the consultants shall be engaged on a lump-sum basis, and is expected to:

- (i) conduct research on a predefined issue as agreed upon with the editorial team of the ADR;
- (ii) participate in ADR conferences when called upon by the ADR editorial office during the duration of the engagement;
- (iii) submit a draft of a research paper in the fourth month of the engagement; and
- (iv) submit his or her final draft of the research paper in the sixth month of the engagement.

3. The consultants will receive 50% of their engagement fees upon submission of the research report draft. The full payment of fees for each consultant is conditional on his or her submission of a research article that meets the minimum requirement for publication in the ADR. ADR's editorial office shall determine the quality of each paper.

#### 2. Resource Persons (8 international, 2 person-months each)

4. Under the supervision of the project team leader in ERD, at least 8 resource persons (exact number dependent on the availability of predetermined topics) shall be engaged as discussants to participate in ADR workshops.

5. Resource persons will be international experts who can provide comments and suggestions on the development economists' research. They shall review, comment, and provide suggestions to the latter during and after their presentations in the technical workshops. The resource persons shall have:

- (i) expert knowledge of growth and development issues in Asia;
- (ii) domain knowledge on a predetermined topic under a research theme to be defined by ERD; and
- (iii) extensive experience in applied economic research and development policy.

6. Each of the resource persons shall be engaged on a lump-sum basis, and is expected to:

- (i) participate in ADR conferences when called upon by the ADR editorial office during the duration of the engagement; and
- (ii) comment on draft and final paper submissions and provide inputs aimed at improving the quality of consultants' research papers.

7. Each resource person will receive 50% of their engagement fees upon submission of comments and suggestions to the assigned consultants' report drafts. The full payment of fees for each resource person is conditional on his or her submission of comments to final article submissions.

### **3. Editorial Consultant (1 international, 24 person-months)**

8. Under the supervision of the project team leader in ERD, an editorial consultant shall be engaged to provide inputs on strategies and plans to attain the intermediate goal of improving both the quality of articles in the ADR and its readership. The editorial consultant shall have:

- (i) expert knowledge of growth and development issues in Asia;
- (ii) in-depth knowledge of the editorial processes for academic and research journals;
- (iii) extensive experience in managing the publication of academic journals; and
- (iv) knowledge of the process leading to the inclusion of academic journals in a citation index (e.g., Science Citation Index and SSCI)

### **B. National Consultant**

9. **Copy editor** (1 national, 20 person-months). Under the supervision of the project team leader in ERD, a copy editor shall be engaged to edit the issues of the ADR, to be published every 6 months from May 2012 to December 2013. The copy editor will perform major structural and grammatical editing on accepted manuscripts. These shall be edited for style and language, conforming to the ADR's and ADB's style and usage guidelines.