



Technical Assistance Report

Project Number: 52206-001
Knowledge and Support Technical Assistance Cluster (C-KSTA)
November 2018

Asian Economic Integration: Building Knowledge for Policy Dialogue, 2018–2023

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Asian Development Bank

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
AEIR	–	Asian Economic Integration Report
ARIC	–	Asia Regional Integration Center
ASEAN	–	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASEAN+3	–	ASEAN, Japan, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of Korea
ERCD	–	Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department
ERCI	–	Regional Cooperation and Integration Division
FTA	–	free trade agreement
RCI	–	regional cooperation and integration
TA	–	technical assistance

NOTE

In this report, "\$" refers to United States dollars.

Vice-President	Bambang Susantono, Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development
Director General	Yasuyuki Sawada, Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department (ERCD)
Director	Cyn-Young Park, Regional Cooperation and Integration Division, ERCD
Team leader	Jong Woo Kang, Principal Economist, ERCD
Team members	Fahad Khan, Economist, ERCD Kijin Kim, Economist, ERCD Carol Ongchangco, Operations Coordinator, ERCD Mara Claire Tayag, Senior Economics Officer, ERCD Pia Tenchavez, Senior Operations Assistant, ERCD

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KNOWLEDGE AND SUPPORT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AT A GLANCE

1. Basic Data		Project Number: 52206-001
Project Name	Asian Economic Integration: Building Knowledge for Policy Dialogue, 2018-2023	Department/Division ERCD/ERCI
Nature of Activity Modality	Research and Development Cluster	Executing Agency Asian Development Bank
Country	REG (All DMCs)	
2. Sector	Subsector(s)	ADB Financing (\$ million)
✓ Multisector	ADB's corporate management, policy and strategy development	3.60
	Total	3.60
3. Strategic Agenda	Subcomponents	Climate Change Information
Inclusive economic growth (IEG)	Pillar 1: Economic opportunities, including jobs, created and expanded	Climate Change impact on the Project
Regional integration (RCI)	Pillar 1: Cross-border infrastructure Pillar 2: Trade and investment Pillar 3: Money and finance Pillar 4: Other regional public goods	Low
4. Drivers of Change	Components	Gender Equity and Mainstreaming
Governance and capacity development (GCD)	Institutional development	Some gender elements (SGE) ✓
Knowledge solutions (KNS)	Knowledge sharing activities	
Partnerships (PAR)	Implementation International finance institutions (IFI) Regional organizations United Nations organization	
Private sector development (PSD)	Conducive policy and institutional environment	
5. Poverty and SDG Targeting		Location Impact
Geographic Targeting	No	Regional
Household Targeting	No	High
SDG Targeting	Yes	
SDG Goals	SDG8, SDG10, SDG12, SDG17	
6. Risk Categorization	Low	
7. Safeguard Categorization	Safeguard Policy Statement does not apply	
8. Financing		
Modality and Sources		Amount (\$ million)
ADB		3.60
Knowledge and Support technical assistance: Technical Assistance Special Fund		3.60
Cofinancing		0.00
None		0.00
Counterpart		0.00
None		0.00
Total		3.60

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The proposed knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) cluster will support the mandate of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to promote regional cooperation and integration (RCI) by strengthening the quality and impact of ADB's RCI knowledge products, particularly the Asian Economic Integration Report (AEIR), and RCI databases. The publications and databases could help provide research and data support for ADB Management participating in regional and global policy forums; deliver an information service for external clients in policy, research, and development finance; and support ADB's knowledge and operational work in RCI.

2. The TA is part of the priority TA program of ADB's Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department (ERCD) and was endorsed as corporate TA in December 2017.¹

II. ISSUES

3. Regional integration continues to deepen in Asia and the Pacific. Intraregional trade remains high at 57.8% of the region's total trade in 2017, while the intraregional share for foreign direct investment reached 50.2%.² Intraregional financial links are increasing, even though the region remains more globally connected. Free trade agreements (FTAs) involving Asian economies continue to proliferate with the number of concluded FTAs rising from 45 in 2000 to 167 as of August 2018.³ The Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership was signed by its 11 member countries in March 2018, and negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership were continuing as of November 2018.

4. However, regional cooperation efforts are likely to become more challenging because the remaining areas of RCI are much more complex. Trade tariffs have come down but other border barriers—such as nontariff measures, and border administration and clearance procedures—will be harder to tackle. Many Asian economies still face behind-the-border constraints related to lack of adequate logistics, infrastructure, and institutions. Asia and the Pacific also needs to deal with the cross-border issues of labor mobility and financial integration as well as crimes, diseases, climate change, and disasters.

5. These emerging challenges coupled with the rapidly changing economic environment require policy makers to monitor regional economic issues and forge national and regional policy responses. Regional and global forums—such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); ASEAN, Japan, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of Korea (ASEAN+3); and the Asia–Europe Meeting—aim to discuss these policy measures to maximize mutual benefits through concerted actions and cooperation. As required by these policy dialogues, in-depth and evidence-based analyses on how regional integration is progressing are needed. The following is also needed: exploring how regional cooperation can help promote inclusive and sustainable growth, supplementing national policies, strengthening regional financial safety nets, and buttressing social and environmental protection. However, incentives for investing in RCI-related research and knowledge products in countries remain low because of externalities and the public good nature of RCI-related issues. Understanding and addressing the complex RCI issues in the region also require a high level of technical expertise as well as regional and country-specific knowledge.

¹ The TA first appeared in the business opportunities section of ADB's website on 6 September 2018.

² Data based on ADB's Asian Economic Integration Report database. It covers the 48 regional members of ADB (45 developing economies plus Australia, Japan, and New Zealand).

³ ADB. Asia Regional Integration Center FTA database. <https://aric.adb.org/database/fta> (accessed 30 August 2018).

6. ADB has the mandate and expertise to produce RCI-related knowledge products. Under Strategy 2030, ADB's new long-term corporate strategy, RCI is recognized as an operational priority.⁴ Strategy 2030 also underscores the value of ADB's knowledge and research in raising the understanding of critical issues for action and contributing to global and regional forums by offering regional perspectives. ADB has also played an important role in the evolution of regional and subregional RCI initiatives.⁵ ADB will expand its RCI portfolio in line with the target to make RCI lending 30% of ADB's overall operations under Strategy 2020.⁶ The Operational Plan for RCI (2016–2020) recognizes that ADB's RCI knowledge products should support ADB's operational departments to enhance the quality of its RCI portfolio growth.⁷

III. JUSTIFICATION FOR CLUSTER MODALITY

7. Experience with the implementation of previous TA projects suggests that the research production process should allow for enough time and effort for in-depth analyses and rigorous peer reviews. To work toward this, the TA cluster will adopt the 2-year rolling research cycle in line with that of ADB's Asian Development Outlook. The TA cluster approach is more appropriate than a stand-alone TA because the AEIR and the TA cluster's other knowledge products will evolve, building on the research conducted and the data compiled during prior subprojects. It will also ensure that the 2-year rolling research work is continuously supported through the timely engagement of experts and other activities.

IV. THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CLUSTER

A. Impact, Outcome, and Outputs

8. The TA cluster is aligned with the following impact: increased awareness and understanding of RCI-related issues and policy options among ADB developing member countries to leverage RCI for inclusive and sustainable growth in Asia and the Pacific. The TA cluster will have the following outcome: new RCI knowledge products and data shared in various regional forums and referenced by policy makers, researchers, practitioners, the media, and the public.⁸

9. **Output 1: regional cooperation and integration-related reports and publications are created and disseminated.** Three kinds of RCI-related knowledge products will be produced. First, the annual AEIR will feature thematic chapters on challenges and issues related to RCI in addition to providing updates on RCI progress in trade and the global value chain, foreign direct investment, financial integration, movement of people, and subregional RCI initiatives.⁹ Background research papers will be commissioned on topical issues to provide solid empirical and analytical foundations for the AEIR and other reports. These papers will also be considered for publication as separate policy briefs and/or working papers. Second, the TA cluster will produce reports on the regional economic outlook and risks and RCI progress for the semiannual

⁴ ADB. 2018. *Strategy 2030: Achieving a Prosperous, Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable Asia and the Pacific*. Manila.

⁵ ADB's pioneering RCI platform was the Greater Mekong Subregion established in 1992. The pragmatic nature of the Greater Mekong Subregion, with ADB as its secretariat, proved highly successful. ADB subsequently replicated this model in Central Asia through the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program and in South Asia through the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Program.

⁶ ADB. 2008. *Strategy 2020: Working for an Asia and Pacific Free of Poverty*. Manila.

⁷ ADB. 2016. *Operational Plan for Regional Cooperation and Integration, 2016–2020*. Manila.

⁸ The design and monitoring framework is in Appendix 1.

⁹ The AEIR, including its precursor report—the Asian Economic Integration Monitor—is the only ADB publication as of 2018 that provides a comprehensive and regular review of RCI-related trends and issues in Asia and the Pacific. The AEIR has been downloaded an average of 12,000 times per issue as of May 2018.

ASEAN+3 Finance and Central Bank Deputies' Meetings. Third, to increase operational support, the TA cluster will conduct the biennial survey of trade finance in collaboration with ADB's Private Sector Operations Department and produce and disseminate reports on trade finance.

10. To disseminate the AEIR, the TA cluster will hold internal and external launches in collaboration with ADB's regional departments and the Department of Communications. The key findings of the TA cluster's RCI-related knowledge products will also be shared in international conferences and seminars to be arranged by the TA cluster team in collaboration with reputable research institutions. The products will mostly be disseminated electronically, although printed copies of the AEIR highlights will be circulated during AEIR launches, conferences, and seminars as event materials. Printed copies of the full report will be provided based on demand from policy makers and other audiences. The digital platforms to be used for dissemination include ADB's official website, the Asia Regional Integration Center (ARIC) website, social media, blogs, infographics, and other online knowledge-sharing sites.

11. **Output 2: Timely and up-to-date regional cooperation and integration indicators and databases are maintained and improved.** The TA cluster will maintain and improve RCI databases in ADB's ARIC website,¹⁰ which comprises (i) macroeconomy and finance, including the Financial Stress Index; (ii) regional integration indicators, including the Asia-Pacific Regional Cooperation and Integration Index; (iii) the FTA database, including a tool kit to compare different FTA texts; (iv) the Daily Market Watch; and (v) the information portal on Asia's RCI-related initiatives, including news, studies, and other important documents and meetings. The key trends from the updated databases will be captured through infographics and blogs, which will be posted on the ARIC website and shared through social media.

B. Cost and Financing

12. The TA cluster is estimated to cost \$3,600,000 (\$1,200,000 for each of the three TA subprojects), which will be financed on a grant basis by ADB's Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF 6 for subproject 1, and subsequent TA subprojects will be financed by the succeeding TASF replenishment). Detailed cost estimates and financing arrangements will be included in each TA subproject proposal submitted for approval.

C. Implementation Arrangements

13. ADB will administer the TA cluster, with ERCD's Regional Cooperation and Integration Division (ERCI) being directly responsible for administration, engagement and management of consultants, procurement of equipment and software, and the achievement of TA cluster outputs. Adhering to the "One ADB" approach in knowledge solutions, ERCI will compile expertise and knowledge from other ERCD units (e.g., the *Asian Development Outlook* team's regional economic outlook, the *Key Indicators* team's global value chain data, the finance team's financial integration, and the RCI thematic group's inputs on RCI operations) and other ADB departments (e.g., the Department of Communications' media expertise, the Private Sector Operations Department's trade finance survey, and regional departments' inputs on the AEIR). ERCI will pursue closer coordination with ADB's operations departments in selecting research topics for AEIR theme chapters and identifying appropriate methodologies. For possible research collaboration and joint conferences and dissemination activities, the TA will also identify and partner with reputable regional or global research institutions. The implementation arrangements are summarized in Table 1.

¹⁰ ADB. Asia Regional Integration Center. <https://aric.adb.org/>.

Table 1: Implementation Arrangements for the Technical Assistance Cluster

Aspects	Arrangements		
Indicative implementation period	December 2018–December 2023 (TA cluster) December 2018–July 2021 (subproject 1) July 2020–July 2022 (subproject 2) July 2021–December 2023 (subproject 3)		
Executing agency	ADB (Regional Cooperation and Integration Division)		
Implementing agency	ADB (Regional Cooperation and Integration Division)		
Consultants	Package title	Selection method ^a	Engaged by
	RCI experts (international)	Individual selection	ADB
	Economic editors (international)	Individual selection	ADB
	Senior economic analysts (national)	Individual selection	ADB
	Statistician (national)	Individual selection	ADB
	Economic analysts (national)	Individual selection	ADB
	Database developer	Individual selection	ADB
	Website administrator (national)	Individual selection	ADB
	Manuscript proofreaders (national)	Individual selection ^b	ADB
	Typesetters and graphic designers (national)	Individual selection ^b	ADB
Disbursement	The TA resources will be disbursed following ADB's <i>Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook</i> (2010, as amended from time to time).		

ADB = Asian Development Bank, RCI = regional cooperation and integration, TA = technical assistance.

^a Lump-sum payments, output-based contracts, and framework contracts will be considered.

^b Hiring retainers from the Department of Communications will also be considered.

Source: Asian Development Bank.

14. **Subprojects.** The TA cluster will be implemented through three subprojects (Appendix 2). Each subproject will be designed to support the achievement of the cluster outputs (paras. 9–11) as needed during the implementation period (Table 2). Upon review by ADB's regional departments and other relevant departments and units, each TA subproject proposal will be submitted for approval to the director general of ERCD. Subproject activities will start only after approval.

Table 2: Indicative Implementation Period and Budget Allocation for Subprojects

Item	Subproject Title	Implementation Period	Budget (\$'000)
Subproject 1	Asian Economic Integration: Building Knowledge for Policy Dialogue, 2018–2021	December 2018–July 2021	1,200.00
Subproject 2	Asian Economic Integration: Building Knowledge for Policy Dialogue, 2020–2022	July 2020–July 2022	1,200.00
Subproject 3	Asian Economic Integration: Building Knowledge for Policy Dialogue, 2021–2023	July 2021–December 2023	1,200.00

Source: Asian Development Bank.

15. **Consulting services.** Individual consultants will be recruited as needed to provide an estimated 45 person-months of international consulting inputs and 556 person-months of national consulting inputs.¹¹ The consultants will be engaged in accordance with the ADB Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and the associated project administration instructions and/or staff instructions.¹² Hiring a team of individual consultants will provide more benefits for ADB than engaging a firm because (i) based on past implementation experiences, it is difficult to

¹¹ Terms of Reference for Consultants (accessible from the list of linked documents in Appendix 3).

¹² ADB will consider lump-sum payments, output-based contracts, and framework contracts for consulting services.

find a firm that specializes in a wide range of RCI-related topics that AEIR and ARIC databases cover; (ii) it is faster to mobilize and coordinate individual consultants, particularly for responding quickly to the needs of ADB Management and developing member country policy makers for data and research work on emerging issues; and (iii) there is greater flexibility in engaging experts specializing in a broad spectrum of RCI-related topics.

16. International consultants will be commissioned to prepare background research papers for selected topics in the AEIR and to draft and edit TA publications and ARIC website content. National consultants will include senior economic analysts to lead the delivery of the TA's core outputs, including assigned chapters of the AEIR, and economic analysts and a statistician to maintain and update the ARIC website and databases and help prepare the TA project's publications and seminars. Other national consultants, including a system and database developer and a website developer, will also be engaged to manage the ARIC website databases. Typesetters, graphic designers, and proofreaders will be engaged for the publication of the AEIR and other documents. Resource persons—internationally distinguished experts, which could include ADB staff—will be engaged to present or facilitate discussions at seminars and other events.

17. A team of ERCI staff will oversee and manage the implementation of the TA cluster. One international staff will be the lead project leader and lead the consultants. The TA cluster team members will include two other international staff, one national officer, one operations coordinator, and one operations assistant.

18. **ADB's procurement.** The purchase of equipment (computer hardware and software) and statistical databases will follow the ADB Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and the Procurement Regulations for ADB Borrowers (2017, as amended from time to time).¹³ Where applicable, the TA team will coordinate with ADB's Office of Information Systems and Technology and Office of Administrative Services in the purchase of the equipment. After the TA is completed, the TA team will dispose any procured equipment in compliance with the project administration instructions on administering grant-financed TA projects.¹⁴ Disbursements under this TA will be made in accordance with ADB's *Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook* (2010, as amended from time to time).

19. **Social media and websites.** The TA cluster will regularly update and maintain the existing ARIC website and its social media accounts.¹⁵ If there is demand for the website to continue, the project team will explore sources of financing to maintain it before project closing.

V. THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION

20. The President, acting under the authority delegated by the Board, has approved the provision of technical assistance not exceeding the equivalent of \$3,600,000 on a grant basis for the Asian Economic Integration: Building Knowledge for Policy Dialogue, 2018–2023, and hereby reports this action to the Board.

¹³ Procurement Plan will be provided in each of the subproject proposal.

¹⁴ ADB. 2013. Administering Grant-Financed Technical Assistance Projects. *Project Administration Instructions*. PAI 5.09. Manila.

¹⁵ The project team will continue to collaborate with ADB's Office of Information Systems and Technology to ensure that proper information technology security controls are implemented. It will also continue to follow ADB's Guidelines on Social Media.

DESIGN AND MONITORING FRAMEWORK

Impact the TA is Aligned with Increased awareness and understanding of RCI-related issues and policy options among ADB DMCs in order to leverage RCI for inclusive and sustainable growth in Asia and the Pacific ^a			
Results Chain	Performance Indicators with Targets and Baselines	Data Sources and Reporting Mechanisms	Risks
<p>Outcome New RCI knowledge products and data are shared in various regional forums and referenced by policy makers, researchers, practitioners, the media, and the general public</p>	<p>By 2023:</p> <p>a. 550 media citations and interviews for the AEIR (2017 baseline: 60 citations); subproject 1: 200 (two AEIR issues), subproject 2: 150, subproject 3: 200</p> <p>b. AEIR content and ARIC RCI databases used in 200 ADB Management speeches and briefing notes (2017 baseline: 60 speeches); subproject 1: 60, subproject 2: 70, subproject 3: 70</p> <p>c. 510 references to AEIR content in ADB publications and by external clients (2017 baseline: 110 citations); subproject 1: 140, subproject 2: 170, subproject 3: 200</p> <p>d. 750 references to ARIC RCI databases in ADB and external publications (2017 baseline: 160 citations); subproject 1: 200, subproject 2: 250, subproject 3: 300</p>	<p>a. Department of Communications' media monitoring report</p> <p>b. ADB Management speeches, talking points, and briefing notes</p> <p>c. ADB website for ADB documents and web searches of scholarly literature and news (e.g., Google Scholar)</p> <p>d. ADB website for ADB documents and web searches of scholarly literature (e.g., Google Scholar)</p>	<p>Changes in the global or regional economic and political environment undermine the importance of RCI as a key development strategy.</p>
<p>Outputs 1. RCI-related reports and publications are created and disseminated</p>	<p>1a. 1,200 printed copies of AEIR highlights (2017 baseline: 300 copies); subproject 1: 600 (two AEIR issues), subproject 2: 300, subproject 3: 300</p> <p>1b. 75,000 web downloads of the AEIR (2017 baseline: 12,000); subproject 1: 30,000 (two AEIR issues); subproject 2: 20,000; subproject 3: 25,000</p> <p>1c. Ten confidential notes for ASEAN+3 (2017 baseline: two reports); subproject 1: 4, subproject 2: 3, subproject 3: 3</p> <p>1d. One trade finance survey report every 2 years (2017 baseline: 1 report); subprojects 1–3: 1 report each</p> <p>1e. Two launch or dissemination events per AEIR issue (2017 baseline: 2 events); subproject 1: 4 events, subprojects 2–3: 2 events each</p>	<p>1a. ADB's ERCD reports</p> <p>1b. ARIC and ADB website statistics</p> <p>1c. Feedback from the ASEAN+3 meeting</p> <p>1d. ADB K-Nexus</p> <p>1e. Feedback from event participants, ADB departments, and other stakeholders</p>	<p>Difficulties in the collection of primary data delay the research schedule and production of knowledge products.</p> <p>No common time is available among stakeholders to conduct consultation meetings to discuss the AEIR theme chapter.</p>

Results Chain	Performance Indicators with Targets and Baselines	Data Sources and Reporting Mechanisms	Risks
2. Timely and up-to-date RCI indicators and databases are maintained and improved	<p>1f. 20,000 people reached through social media during the AEIR launch (2017 baseline: 2,000 people); subproject 1: 7,000; subproject 2: 5,500; subproject 3: 7,500</p> <p>1g. Six international conferences on RCI (2017 baseline: 1 conference); subprojects 1–3: 2 conferences each</p> <p>2a. The macro and finance database updated monthly; 300,000 page views (2017 baseline: 80,000 page views); subproject 1: 90,000; subproject 2: 100,000; subproject 3: 110,000</p> <p>2b. The integration indicators database, the FTA database and tool kit, ARCII, and the Financial Stability Index are updated regularly (2017 baseline: Twice a year for the FTA database and once a year for the rest)</p> <p>2c. 240,000 page views for the integration indicators database (2017 baseline: 60,000 page views); subproject 1: 70,000; subproject 2: 80,000; subproject 3: 90,000</p> <p>2d. 810,000 page views for the FTA database (2017 baseline: 240,000 page views); subproject 1: 250,000; subproject 2: 270,000; subproject 3: 290,000</p> <p>2e. 15,000 page views for the ARCII and FSI databases; (2017 baseline: 0); subproject 1: 3,000; subproject 2: 5,000; subproject 3: 7,000</p> <p>2f. The Daily Market Watch is updated regularly; 15,000 page views (2017 baseline: 3,000 page views; subproject 1: 4,000; subproject 2: 5,000; subproject 3: 6,000</p>	<p>1f. Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter; and Instagram statistics (ARIC and ADB official accounts)</p> <p>1g. Background papers produced and presented, and feedback from participants and key speakers</p> <p>2a. ARIC database and website statistics</p> <p>2b. ARIC database</p> <p>2c. ARIC website statistics</p> <p>2d. ARIC website statistics</p> <p>2e. ARIC website statistics</p> <p>2f. ARIC database and website statistics</p>	<p>Experts are unavailable to present, comment, and review.</p> <p>Technical problems block access to the ARIC website.</p>

<p>Key Activities with Milestones</p> <p>1. TA subproject 1 (December 2018–July 2021) RCI publications and knowledge products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Launch of AEIR 2019 and 2020 (October 2019 and October 2020) 1.2 International RCI conference (December 2018, May 2019) and AEIR dissemination (November 2019–February 2020, November 2020–February 2021) 1.3 Economic prospects and issues report to ASEAN+3 (April and November 2019, April 2020) 1.4 Trade finance survey report (September 2019) and dissemination (September–November 2019) <p>RCI databases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.5 Daily updating of website content and the monthly release of the updated macroeconomic and financial database (December 2018–July 2021) 1.6 Updated free trade agreement database (January and July 2019, January and July 2020) 1.7 Updated regional indicators, ARCII, and FSI databases (July–August 2019, July–August 2020) <p>2. TA subproject 2 (July 2020–July 2022) RCI publications and knowledge products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Launch of AEIR 2021 (October 2021) 2.2 International RCI conference (December 2019, May 2020) and AEIR dissemination (November 2021–February 2022) 2.3 Economic prospects and issues report to ASEAN+3 (November 2020, April and November 2021) 2.4 Trade finance survey report (September 2021) and dissemination (September–November 2021) <p>RCI databases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.5 Daily updating of website content and the monthly release of the updated macroeconomic and financial database (July 2020–July 2022) 2.6 Updated free trade agreement database (January and July 2021, January 2022) 2.7 Updated regional indicators, ARCII, and FSI databases (July–August 2021, July 2022) <p>3. TA subproject 3 (July 2021–December 2023) RCI publications and knowledge products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1 Launch of AEIR 2022 (October 22) 3.2 International RCI conference (December 2020, May 2021) and AEIR dissemination (November 2022–February 2023) 3.3 Economic prospects and issues report to ASEAN+3 (April and November 2022, April 2023) 3.4 Trade finance survey report (September 2023) and dissemination (September–December 2023) <p>RCI databases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.5 Daily updating of website content and monthly release of the updated macroeconomic and financial database (July 2021–December 2023) 3.6 Updated free trade agreement database (July 2022, January and July 2023) 3.7 Updated regional indicators, ARCII, and FSI databases (July–August 2023) <p>TA Management Activities Hiring of consultants (January 2019, May 2019, November–December 2019, May 2020, November–December 2020, May 2021, November–December 2021, May 2022, November–December 2022) Procurement of information technology equipment and software (schedule to be determined)</p> <p>Inputs ADB: \$3,600,000: \$1,200,000 for each of the three TA subprojects</p> <p>Assumptions for Partner Financing Not applicable</p>

ADB = Asian Development Bank; AEIR = Asian Economic Integration Report; ARCII = Asia-Pacific Regional Cooperation and Integration Index; ARIC = Asia Regional Integration Center; ASEAN+3 = Association of Southeast Asian Nations plus Japan, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of Korea; DMC = developing member country; FTA = free trade agreement; RCI = regional cooperation and integration; TA = technical assistance.

^a Defined by TA.

Source: Asian Development Bank.

SUBPROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

Subproject 1	Asian Economic Integration: Building Knowledge for Policy Dialogue, 2018–2021
Indicative outputs and activities	<p>Output 1: Regional cooperation and integration (RCI)-related reports and publications are created and disseminated.</p> <p>(i) The first subproject of the technical assistance (TA) cluster will cover the Asian Economic Integration Report (AEIR) 2020 cycle and will produce the AEIR 2020 and background papers as outputs. AEIR 2020 will feature trade and the global value chain as theme chapter topic. The AEIR team from the Regional Cooperation and Integration Division (ERCI) of ADB will consult with ADB's operational departments and relevant thematic or sectoral groups to refine the topic. At least two international conferences or seminars will be held in collaboration with reputable research institutions to (a) gather insights from high-level policy makers and experts in the region and (b) disseminate the AEIR. Aside from electronic and printed publications, digital platforms—such as infographics, blogs, and social media—will also be used.</p> <p>(ii) Since this is the first time the AEIR will adopt a full 2-year research cycle, the TA subproject will also cover the printing and dissemination of AEIR 2019, which is being prepared and funded by a previous stand-alone TA. The proposed TA subproject will also partly fund the hiring of international consultants and the conducting of workshops and international conferences for AEIR 2019.</p> <p>(iii) The TA subproject will also produce four reports for the ASEAN+3 (Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Japan, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of Korea) Finance and Central Bank Deputies' Meetings (AFCDM+3) and the Trade Finance Survey 2019. Other reports on pressing issues related to RCI may also be produced as requested by Asian Development Bank (ADB) Management or developing member country (DMC) policy makers.</p> <p>Output 2: Timely and accurate RCI indicators and databases are maintained and improved. In addition to maintaining the RCI databases as enumerated in para. 11 of the main text, the first subproject will implement innovation by developing a user-friendly application to allow users to download data from their mobile devices.</p>
Indicative implementation arrangements	<p>Individual consultants will be recruited as needed to provide an estimated 19 person-months of international consulting inputs and 270 person-months of national consulting inputs. Resource persons, who are internationally distinguished experts and could include ADB staff, will be engaged to present or facilitate discussions at seminars and other events. To produce the RCI knowledge products and databases, the TA will purchase information technology-related equipment and statistical software, and subscribe to third-party databases.</p> <p>A team from ADB's ERCI will oversee and manage the implementation of the TA cluster. One international staff will be the lead project leader and lead the consultants. The TA cluster team members will include two other international staff, one national officer, one operations coordinator, and one operations assistant.</p>
Implementation schedule	December 2018–July 2021

Other subprojects	<p>Subproject 2: Asian Economic Integration: Building Knowledge for Policy Dialogue, 2020–2022</p> <p>Subproject 3: Asian Economic Integration: Building Knowledge for Policy Dialogue, 2021–2023</p>
Indicative outputs and activities	<p>Output 1: RCI-related reports and publications are created and disseminated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Subsequent TA subprojects will be structured similar to TA subproject 1. The second subproject will produce the AEIR 2021, Trade Finance Survey 2021, and three AFCDM+3 reports. The last subproject will be structured similar to previous subprojects. It will produce AEIR 2022, Trade Finance Survey 2023, and three AFCDM+3 reports. Other papers on RCI-related issues may also be produced upon request by ADB Management or policy makers from ADB's DMCs. (ii) For the theme topics of AEIR 2021 and 2022, a consultative process will be followed to refine the focus of the theme topics. The AEIR team from ERCI will pursue discussions with ADB's operations departments and concerned sector and thematic groups. It will also address priority issues identified by the ADB Management and requests by policy makers in ADB's DMCs during global and regional policy forums. (iii) International conferences or seminars will be organized to gather papers and insights from experts and practitioners within and outside the region and to disseminate the results of the AEIR. Internal workshops will also be conducted to share key findings and gather comments from ADB's operations departments and concerned units. <p>Output 2: Timely and accurate RCI indicators and databases are maintained and improved. Improvements on the RCI-related databases will be continued to reflect user feedback from previous subprojects and requirements from the AEIR and other knowledge projects of the TA cluster.</p>
Indicative implementation arrangements	<p>Individual consultants will be recruited as needed for the duration of the TA subproject. The specific number of person-months needed for national and international consultants will be indicated in the subproject proposal. Resource persons, who are internationally distinguished experts and could include ADB staff, will be engaged to present or facilitate discussions at seminars and other events.</p> <p>A team from ADB's ERCI will oversee and manage the implementation of the TA cluster. One international staff will be the lead project leader and lead the consultants. The TA cluster team members will include two other international staff, one national officer, one operations coordinator, and one operations assistant.</p>
Implementation schedule	<p>Subproject 2: July 2020–July 2022</p> <p>Subproject 3: July 2021–December 2023</p>

Source: Asian Development Bank.

LIST OF LINKED DOCUMENTS

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/LinkedDocs/?id=52206-001-TARreport>

1. Terms of References for Consultants