

**MONTHLY REPORT ON SMALL-SCALE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS
NOT EXCEEDING \$150,000 PER PROJECT
April 2003**

1. Policy Reform Support, People's Republic of China

Executing Agency : Urban Construction Department, Ministry of Construction
Research Department, People's Bank of China
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 10 September 2002
Date Approved : 11 April 2003

Project Description :

The TA has two objectives: (i) to provide a quick response mechanism that allows ADB to react quickly to support policy reform initiatives at a time when the Government is ready to deal with the issue; and (ii) to stimulate discussions of policy reforms that will have major implications for PRC's transition to a market economy. The two issues to be addressed under this TA are: (i) use of market-based instruments to enhance private public sector partnership in the public utilities; and (ii) strategic options for PRC banking reforms. The Government is considering using market-based instruments to improve investment and management efficiency in the public utility industries. Work financed under the TA will analyze the issues from a perspective of international best practices and helped to adopt them to the PRC context. This analysis will help the Government to draft guidelines for the award of concessions and adopt other private public partnerships modalities for utilities. With regard to banking reforms, this TA will facilitate an exchange of views on reform options among policymakers and international and domestic experts.

Status of Consulting Services: No action has been taken to recruit consultants.

2. Implementation of the Information and Communication Technology Strategy, Fiji Islands

Executing Agency : Information Technology and Computing Services (ITCS),
Ministry of Finance and National Planning
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 6 February 2003
Date Approved : 28 April 2003

Project Description :

The objective of this TA is to improve the enabling environment for economic growth and poverty reduction by enhancing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) development in the Fiji Islands. The purpose is to formulate and implement a short-to medium-term operational ICT sector strategy that can be used by the Government to plan its interventions to promote ICT development. The main output of the TA will be to produce a strategy and business plan for ITCS, including the implementation of selected

ICT applications that can be used by Government as a pilot model for its planning and implementation of ICT in the Fiji Islands. Some immediate operational interventions identified by the TA could be implemented almost immediately upon conclusion of the TA. The short- to medium-term strategy paper will be discussed in a public forum in which various government and other stakeholders could participate.

Status of Consulting Services: Recruitment of consultants is underway.

3. **Assessment of Subregional Water Resources Management Issues in Central Asia, Regional**

Executing Agency : Asian Development Bank
TA Type : Study
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 6 February 2003
Date Approved : 11 April 2003

Project Description :

The TA aims to undertake a rapid, but judicious stocktaking of the past and ongoing activities by the CARs and international donors in identifying and addressing the need for improved management of shared water in the subregion, and to help ADB identify key strategic focus, activities and goals for ADB's subregional assistance initiative for management of shared water, as a basis to further formulate a follow-on multi-year Regional Technical Assistance under which the identified activities are to be implemented.

Status of Consulting Services: Consultants' recruitment is being finalized.

4. **Key Indicators of Developing Asian and Pacific Countries (KI) 2003 and 2004, Regional**

Executing Agency : Asian Development Bank
TA Type : Conference
TA Amount (\$'000) : 90.0
ADBBO Listing : 15 April 2003
Date Approved : 21 April 2003

Project Description :

The TA has two objectives, both aiming to further improve the design, content and dissemination of KI. The first objective is to assure the production of high-quality theme chapters for KI 2003 and 2004. The theme chosen for the 2003 edition is the need for education reforms in Asia and the Pacific. The second objective is to assure the relevance and wider dissemination of KI. This objective will be pursued by enhancing the content and design of the publication (e.g. adding a section on the Millennium Development Goals, adopting a new layout, and including derived indicators), and by organizing a public launching of the 2003 and 2004 editions.

Status of Consulting Services: Recruitment of consultants to commence in 2004.