

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

**1. Rural Finance Development, Lao PDR**

**Executing Agency** : Bank of Lao PDR  
**TA Type** : Project Preparatory  
**TA Amount (\$'000)** : 150.0  
**ADBBO Listing** : Not listed<sup>a</sup>  
**Date Approved** : 2 July 2003

**Project Description :**

The purpose of the TA is to assist the Government in preparing a rural and microfinance development project suitable for ADB financing. The ensuing project will be aimed at reducing poverty and promoting economic growth by improving the performance of the rural and microfinance sector, including reducing transactions costs associated with delivery of financial services, thereby increasing access to financial services by the rural poor and micro, small, and medium enterprises.

**Status of Consulting Services:** Direct selection of consultants has been approved.

**2. Formulation of Rural Road Development Plan, Kazakhstan**

**Executing Agency** : Administration of the President of Kazakhstan  
**TA Type** : Advisory and Operational  
**TA Amount (\$'000)** : 150.0  
**ADBBO Listing** : 27 May 2003  
**Date Approved** : 16 July 2003

**Project Description :**

The TA will formulate a plan for rural road development to facilitate Government decision-making, particularly at the regional level. The plan will also assist in generating a framework for managing and financing rural roads network and other rural transport infrastructure. The main objectives of the TA are to (i) improve planning, financing, management and maintenance of rural roads and transport infrastructure; (ii) develop good practice schemes for financing rural road construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance; (iii) recommend appropriate international good practices and transfer experience in rural road construction, maintenance and management; and (iv) through rural road development, improve socioeconomic conditions and reduce poverty in rural areas.

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

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<sup>a</sup> Waiver to publish in ADB Business Opportunities approved by Management.

### 3. Skills Development Reform, Pakistan

**Executing Agency** : Department of Education  
 Government of Balochistan  
 Department of Industries, NWFP  
**TA Type** : Project Preparatory  
**TA Amount (\$'000)** : 150.0  
**ADBBO Listing** : 9 May 2003  
**Date Approved** : 17 July 2003

**Project Description :**

The main objective of the TA will be to improve the quality and relevance of skills development programs to support labor-intensive industries. It will draft action plans to further improve the skills development programs in Pakistan, based on the labor market demands. Also, appropriate modes of public and private sector partnership will be explored to enhance external efficiency of the technical education and vocational training system. Active participation of the private sector in the operation of training centers will be institutionalized to make them more responsive to industrial needs. Special attention will be given to women and rural poor for their access to skills training programs.

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

### 4. Thirteenth Tax Conference, Regional

**Executing Agency** : Asian Development Bank  
**TA Type** : Conference  
**TA Amount (\$'000)** : 150.0  
**ADBBO Listing** : 11 April 2003  
**Date Approved** : 14 July 2003

**Project Description :**

The overall goal of the TA is to contribute to the development of human resources for economic growth and poverty reduction. The main objective of the ADB Tax Conference is to provide (i) a capacity building opportunity through the exchange of views, experiences and new knowledge in international taxation for policy design and administration; and (ii) a forum that will encourage mutual understanding and cooperation among tax policymakers and senior officials from DMCs of the region, in particular, on emerging issues of taxation.

**Status of Consulting Services:** No consultant is required.