

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

1. Arsenic Mitigation Review and Strategy Formulation, Bangladesh

Executing Agency : Local Government Division of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 120.0
ADBBO Listing : 7 April 2003
Date Approved : 3 September 2003

Project Description :

The overall goal of the TA is to provide safe drinking water and improve the health and economic well being of the population exposed to arsenic and other groundwater contaminants. Its aim is to prepare, in consultation with key stakeholders and considering the Government's relevant policy with its objective review, (i) an inventory of completed and ongoing mitigation activities and their progress and lessons; (ii) an assistance strategy and priority interventions and approaches that may be pursued by ADB and/or any interested external funding agencies; and (iii) a roadmap that synthesizes the actions and their timeframe assisted by external funding agencies to address critical issues comprehensively. The outputs will facilitate the coordination of the assistance provided in the sector while catalyzing the lessons and good practices and defining specific course of actions that should be taken by ADB to address the issue.

Status of Consulting Services: Individual consultants have been selected.

2. National Strategic Development Plan, Federated States of Micronesia

Executing Agency : Department of Economic Affairs
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 17 July 2003
Date Approved : 5 September 2003

Project Description :

The objective of this TA is to assist the Government in preparing the 3rd FSM Economic Summit and the medium-term national strategic plan with a view to continuing structural reforms of the FSM and creating an enabling environment for pro-poor sustainable economic growth. The main outputs of the TA will be resource materials for the Economic Summit, which will be a basis for the preparation of the strategic development plan.

Status of Consulting Services: Recruitment of consultants is underway.

3. Diagnostic Study for Improving Access to Affordable Credit, Vanuatu

Executing Agency : Ministry of Finance and Economic Management
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 14 May 2003
Date Approved : 14 September 2003

Project Description :

The goal of ADB's assistance to private sector development in Vanuatu is to improve the access of ni-Vanuatu to affordable credit and thereby support pro-poor economic growth. The ultimate objective of this TA is to assist the Government to establish a well-functioning secured transactions framework and a credit reference facility (CRF) to improve the access to affordable credit. The TA's purpose is to prepare a sound integrated reform package, including a detailed implementation plan, designed to achieve this development objective and presented in a format suitable for possible implementation support by ADB through a series of subsequent TAs. The TA outputs will include detailed reports on the legal and regulatory aspects of the proposed secured transactions system, on institutional issues related to an effective registry system for secured transactions, and on the viability of a CRF including critical aspects for the establishment thereof.

Status of Consulting Services: Recruitment of consultants is underway.

4. Support for the Development of a Poverty Reduction Strategy Towards Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Indonesia

Executing Agency : National Development Planning Agency Directorate for Local Autonomy and Regional Government
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 9 June 2003
Date Approved : 17 September 2003

Project Description :

The purpose of the TA is to support the work of the task force in development of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) focusing on the second pillar of community empowerment. The TA will (i) help the Government identify the conditions necessary to achieve the MDGs; (ii) strengthen the linkages between the four pillars of the PRSP and the MDGs; and (iii) examine ADB's Country Strategy and Program as an example to ensure that donor assistance to Indonesia will make maximum contribution to the implementation of the PRSP. During its execution, the TA will also help improve the quality of participation in project design and implementation and promote cross-learning and dissemination of this information within ADB and to the broader community.

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

5. Greater Colombo Wastewater Management Sector Review, Sri Lanka

Executing Agency : Ministry of Housing and Plantation Infrastructure
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 15 April 2003
Date Approved : 26 September 2003

Project Description :

The purpose of this sector review is to assist the Government in developing a strategy to provide the institutional framework and the investment criteria required for a viable project investment in the wastewater infrastructure. The TA outputs include: (i) a strategy to improve the performance of the existing system; (ii) recommendations to achieve optimal financing of wastewater infrastructure (including user charges and taxes); (iii) an outline investment plan to increase access to appropriate sanitation (by increasing sewer connections or access to appropriate on site sanitation); and (iv) recommendations on areas that need amendments after reviewing existing legal instruments and framework to achieve above objectives of the project once implemented.

Status of Consulting Services: Recruitment of consultants is underway.

6. Enhancing the Efficiency of Overseas Workers' Remittances, Philippines

Executing Agency : Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP)
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 17 July 2003
Date Approved : 26 September 2003

Project Description :

The purpose of the TA is to review the overseas Filipino workers' remittance flows and identify constraints in the policy, regulatory and institutional framework that impact these flows. The TA will develop proposals to address the identified problems and constraints with the goal of (a) possibly increasing remittance volume, (b) facilitating the shift from informal to formal remittance channels, and (c) where applicable, encourage the use of remittance proceeds for sustainable poverty reduction.

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