

**MONTHLY REPORT ON SMALL-SCALE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS  
NOT EXCEEDING \$150,000 PER PROJECT  
December 2000**

**1. Review of the Superannuation and Insurance Schemes, Cook Islands**

**Executing Agency** : Ministry of Finance and Economic Management  
**TA Type** : Advisory and Operational  
**TA Amount (\$'000)** : 100.0  
**ADBBO Listing** : 9 June 2000  
**Date Approved** : 06 December 2000

**Project Description** :

The purpose of the TA is to review current superannuation and insurance schemes covering public and private sector employees, as well as the welfare benefits, with regard to their breadth of coverage, adequacy and comprehensiveness of the benefits and protection provided, and funding and long-term sustainability. In the event that the TA confirms the inadequacy of the coverage, benefits, and/or funding of the existing schemes, the TA will make recommendations to the Government for the development of a new scheme appropriate for the Cook Islands.

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

**2. Support to Rural Financial Systems Development, Tajikistan**

**Executing Agency** : National Bank of Tajikistan (NBT)  
**TA Type** : Project Preparatory  
**TA Amount (\$'000)** : 150.0  
**ADBBO Listing** : 27 October 2000  
**Date Approved** : 06 December 2000

**Project Description** :

The TA goal is to develop rural financial services. The purpose is to assist both NBT and NGOs in developing a programmed approach to rural financial services delivery. As a result, there will be a policy statement for the provision of rural financial services, an awareness of alternative institutional models and approaches for the delivery of rural financial services, broad recommendations for an appropriate legal and regulatory framework for microfinance institutions, and draft outlines for NGOs to transform to MFIs.

**Status of Consulting Services:** Recruitment of consultants is underway.

**3. Enhancing Capital Market Depth for Preparing Capital Market Development Program II, Pakistan**

**Executing Agency** : Securities Exchange Commission of Pakistan  
**TA Type** : Project Preparatory  
**TA Amount (\$'000)** : 150.0  
**ADBBO Listing** : 3 February 2000  
**Date Approved** : 07 December 2000  
**Project Description** :

The TA will assess the current function of the domestic capital market from the issuers' perspective, identify impediments and recommend reform measures that will lead to enhancing the role of the capital market in procurement of long-term funds by industries and infrastructure

developers. In preparation for the Capital Market Development Program II the TA will: (i) assess the current function of the domestic capital markets against the corporate financing needs in light of recent reforms already undertaken, (ii) identify remaining impediments and gaps in policies, institutional, regulatory and technical aspects, and (iii) recommend reform measures.

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

#### 4. TA to Develop a National Poverty Reduction Strategy, Tajikistan

<b>Executing Agency</b>	:	Office of the President
<b>TA Type</b>	:	Advisory and Operational
<b>TA Amount (\$'000)</b>	:	150.0
<b>ADBBO Listing</b>	:	29 November 2000
<b>Date Approved</b>	:	11 December 2000

**Project Description :**

This TA will assist the Government to develop a national poverty reduction strategy that presents the profile and causes of poverty, identifies constraints to poverty reduction and economic growth, identifies obstacles to increasing employment opportunities and promoting labor-absorbing growth, and identifies strategies and sectors for poverty-reducing projects and foreign donor investment. Central to the development of a national poverty reduction strategy is the necessity of building a broad consensus among stakeholders and soliciting a wide range of viewpoints and inputs into the strategy. Hence, the TA will also assist the Government to establish and support structures to carry out a participatory and consultative process, including seminars, workshops, meetings, and focus groups at local and national levels, to ensure widespread participation among central and local Government officials, civil society (including NGOs), international donors, and the voices of the poor through focus groups, so that the vision and strategy reflect a variety of inputs and are shared by a large cross-section of stakeholders.

**Status of Consulting Services:** Recruitment of consultants is underway.

#### 5. Solid Waste Management Sector, Thailand

<b>Executing Agency</b>	:	Pollution Control Department
<b>TA Type</b>	:	Project Preparatory
<b>TA Amount (\$'000)</b>	:	150.0
<b>ADBBO Listing</b>	:	20 June 2000
<b>Date Approved</b>	:	12 December 2000

**Project Description :**

The objectives of the SSTA are to (i) develop project preparation and implementation plans for the establishment of sustainable solid waste management operations; (ii) develop and test planning mechanisms such that the operations will be satisfactory to the community; (iii) develop and test institutional frameworks for local governments and civil society to work together on the planning, implementation, and operation of solid waste management; (iv) develop and test cost recovery frameworks including an analysis of relevant private sector participation options; and (v) test the effectiveness of existing Government legislation and regulations in ensuring solid waste management activities do not adversely impact on the environment.

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

## 6. Consumer Awareness and Participation in Power Sector Reforms, India

**Executing Agency** : Confederation of Indian Industry-Gujarat Chapter  
**TA Type** : Advisory and Operational  
**TA Amount (\$'000)** : 50.0  
**ADBBO Listing** : 13 November 2000  
**Date Approved** : 13 December 2000

### Project Description :

The TA will fund a coordination group of consumers' representative bodies (tentatively named as the Electricity Consumers Coordination Forum or ECCF) that would meet periodically to be informed by the State Government and Gujarat Electricity Board of reform actions taken and their implications for consumers, and to seek feedback from them. These representatives would then hold seminars to disseminate the information and views to their members. Direct access to the public, through the media, may also be necessary to broaden understanding of the reforms.

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

## 7. Building HUDCO's Capacity for Lending to Community-Based Finance Institutions, India

**Executing Agency** : Department of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation  
**TA Type** : Advisory and Operational  
**TA Amount (\$'000)** : 150.0  
**ADBBO Listing** : 19 October 2000  
**Date Approved** : 15 December 2000

### Project Description :

The objective of this TA is to develop and strengthen the Housing and Urban Development Corporation's (HUDCO) institutional capacity to expand its lending operations to community-based finance institutions (CFIs) for channeling housing loans to low-income households. In order to achieve this objective, the TA has been structured to include three parts: Part A, increase internal commitment and capabilities for CFI lending; Part B, develop appropriate systems and procedures for CFI lending; and Part C, prepare and execute a targeted marketing strategy for CFI lending.

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

## 8. Training in Business Reorganization and Insolvency, Thailand

**Executing Agency** : Business Reorganization Office (BRO)  
**TA Type** : Advisory and Operational  
**TA Amount (\$'000)** : 150.0  
**ADBBO Listing** : Not listed<sup>a</sup>  
**Date Approved** : 15 December 2000

### Project Description :

The objectives of the SSTA are (i) to strengthen the decision making process of the BRO and the Legal Execution Department in the administration of business reorganization cases through increasing the understanding of relevant officials of the economic, financial, legal and accounting implications of insolvency regimes in line with international best practice; (b) strengthen the capacity of Thai training institutions to deliver high quality training in insolvency

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

processes to a range of practitioners; and (c) to assist with the promotion of the understanding of bankruptcy, rehabilitation, restructuring and insolvency law, principles and practice through the development of a practitioners' handbook.

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

#### **Economic Policy Forum, East Timor**

**Executing Agency** : Economic Affairs Department  
**TA Type** : Advisory and Operational  
**TA Amount (\$'000)** : 150.0  
**ADBBO Listing** : 08 December 2000  
**Date Approved** : 18 December 2000

#### **Project Description** :

The general objective of the TA is to provide a strategic vision and policy direction to the East Timorese leadership for the sound economic development of their country. The specific objective is to build capacity and ownership amongst the East Timorese in the area of economic policy work. The Forum will involve the East Timorese leadership and ensure maximum East Timorese participation in the forum deliberations. This is expected to inculcate ownership of Forum proceedings and outcomes.

**Status of Consulting Services:** Shortlisting of consultants completed.

#### **Information Technology Development, Maldives**

**Executing Agency** : Ministry of Finance and Treasury  
**TA Type** : Project Preparatory  
**TA Amount (\$'000)** : 150.0  
**ADBBO Listing** : 01 December 2000  
**Date Approved** : 19 December 2000

#### **Project Description** :

The objective of the TA is to prepare a project to improve efficiency, transparency, and accountability of public sector management including provision of Government services through the use of advanced information technology. The SSTA will be designed to ensure that those components proven to be technically, financially, and economically feasible and environmentally sound are incorporated in the project. The TA will also assess possible environmental and social impacts.

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

#### **Revision of Bankruptcy Law Support, Viet Nam**

**Executing Agency** : State Bank of Viet Nam  
**TA Type** : Advisory and Operational  
**Amount (\$'000)** : 150.0  
**ADBBO Listing** : 03 January 2001  
**Date Approved** : 19 December 2000

#### **Project Description** :

The TA will assist the Government in revising the Bankruptcy Law and the implementation decree for the purpose of accelerating sustainable economic growth through efficient high quality

The TA will assist the Government in revising the Bankruptcy Law and the implementation decree for the purpose of accelerating sustainable economic growth through efficient high quality financial intermediation. The TA provides for legal expertise to (i) review and comment on preliminary drafts of the revised Bankruptcy Law and the decree; (ii) provide ongoing advice; (iii) organize and lead a study tour; (iv) conduct workshops; and (v) provide line-by-line draft recommendations on the near final draft of the Bankruptcy Law as well as the implementation decree up to submission of the Law to the National Assembly.

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

**12. Policy Support for Social Security Reform under Tenth Five-Year Plan, People's Republic of China**

**Executing Agency :** State Development Planning Commission  
**TA Type :** Advisory and Operational  
**Amount (\$'000) :** 150.0  
**ADBBO Listing :** 25 August 2000  
**Date Approved :** 21 December 2000

**Project Description :**

The objective of the TA is to examine issues in and develop strategies for extending unified pension and medical insurance schemes to rural areas, and improving socialization of social security management and services. The TA will address issues of coverage, affordable options to expand social security to the rural formal sectors, and the role of social security in reducing poverty and vulnerability. Its findings will help the Government develop detailed implementation plans for establishing a rural social security system during the Tenth Five-Year Plan period.

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

**13. Public Relations Activities in Support of Government's Anti-Corruption Efforts, Indonesia**

**Executing Agencies :** Bureau for Budget System and Procedure Analysis of BAPPENAS  
**TA Type :** Advisory and Operational  
**Amount (\$'000) :** 150.0  
**ADBBO Listing :** 21 May 1999  
**Date Approved :** 21 December 2000

**Project Description :**

The objective of the TA is to assist the Government's anti-corruption efforts in the area of public sector procurement by ensuring greater involvement of officials of central, provincial and district governments, as well as professionals from private sector and NGOs in the use and further improvement of the Presidential Decrees 17/2000 and 18/2000 which provides a new framework for procurement and financial management. The TA will support dissemination and training, and help increase the participation of the concerned parties in reviewing and further developing the issues covered by the Decrees.

**Status of Consulting Services:** Recruitment of consultants to be initiated in early February.

**14. Studies on the Access of the Poor to Education, Philippines**

**Executing Agencies :** Department of Education, Culture, and Sports/Commission on Higher Education/Bureau of Nonformal Education  
**TA Type :** Advisory and Operational  
**Amount (\$'000) :** 150.0

**Project Description :**

The TA will provide measures needed to address poverty and inequality and to ensure that the gaps between rich and poor, and between the general population and marginalized groups such as ethnic minorities, do not widen. It will ensure that access by the poor to the formal education system is enhanced. However, it is equally important that the quality of education provided be improved at all levels. This requires mobilization of more resources, in part through increased tuition and/or user fees in higher education, coupled with better targeting of financial assistance to the truly poor.

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

**15. Preparing a Methodology for Development Planning in Poverty Blocks under the New Poverty Strategy of PRC, People's Republic of China**

**Executing Agencies :** Leading Group on Poverty Alleviation and Development  
**TA Type :** Advisory and Operational  
**Amount (\$'000) :** 150.0  
**ADBBO Listing :** 08 January 2001  
**Date Approved :** 21 December 2000

**Project Description :**

The objectives of the TA are to develop a methodology for planning the development of poverty blocks, to make preparations for their pilot development planning, and to eventually extend successful experiences. The TA will help develop guidelines on how to make such poverty plans. The TA will be of key support to ADB policy dialogue with the Government in the preparation of the Poverty Partnership Agreement.

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

**Reviewing the Health Management Information System, Marshall Islands**

**Executing Agencies :** Ministry of Health and Environment  
**TA Type :** Advisory and Operational  
**Amount (\$'000) :** 100.0  
**ADBBO Listing :** 11 July 2000  
**Date Approved :** 21 December 2000

**Project Description :**

The objectives of the TA are to review the existing Health Management Information System (HMIS), to develop an action plan for health information in RMI, and to identify precisely the kind and level of assistance required over the medium term to ensure that the HMIS generates accurate, reliable, comprehensive, and usable information for decision making.

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

**Economic Cooperation in Asia, Regional**

**Executing Agencies :** Asian Development Bank  
**TA Type :** Study  
**Amount (\$'000) :** 150.0  
**ADBBO Listing :** 14 November 2000  
**Date Approved :** 08 December 2000

**Project Description :**

The objective of the TA is to conduct a study that will examine and empirically analyze the growing economic interdependence among the Asian and Pacific countries (APCs) and to ascertain the preconditions for hastening the economic cooperation among APCs. This will be achieved by: (i) analyzing the empirical evidence of growing economic interdependence among APCs for the past two decades; (ii) assessing the prospects of regional economic cooperation in Asia for the next twenty years; and (iii) analyzing the risks and impediments to enhanced economic cooperation among APCs. The focus will be to assess the progress towards regional economic integration in Asia, and to identify risks, impediments, and critical bottlenecks.

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

**2001 Disbursement Training Seminars in DMCs, Regional**

**Executing Agencies :** Asian Development Bank  
**TA Type :** Training  
**Amount (\$'000) :** 150.0  
**ADBBO Listing :** Not listed  
**Date Approved :** 15 December 2000

**Project Description :**

The Loan Disbursement Seminars aim (i) to provide target participants with an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the Bank's loan disbursement procedures and requirements in implementing ADB-financed projects; (ii) to update their understanding of the Government's financial regulations and procedures; (iii) to provide participants with selected financial control techniques in project implementation; (iv) to adopt the "training of trainers" approach to expand coverage of the RETA; and (v) to enable more people to gain benefits.

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

**Third Asia Development Forum, Regional**

**Executing Agencies :** Asian Development Bank  
**TA Type :** Conference  
**Amount (\$'000) :** 150.0  
**ADBBO Listing :** 29 November 2000  
**Date Approved :** 18 December 2000

**Project Description :**

The Forum is a premier regional event at which development partners and stakeholders engage in dialogue on broad development concerns for the Asian and Pacific Region. The third forum will focus on new directions and challenges facing DMCs in the era of globalization and information and communication technology revolution. The Forum is co-sponsored with the ADB Institute, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and the World Bank Institute, and is scheduled on 11-14 June 2001 in Bangkok.

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

## 20. Drug Eradication in the Greater Mekong Subregion, Regional

**Executing Agencies** : Asian Development Bank  
**TA Type** : Study  
**Amount (\$'000)** : 150.0  
**ADBBO Listing** : 11 October 2000  
**Date Approved** : 21 December 2000

### Project Description

The project has three main objectives: (i) identification of best practices on the eradication of drugs; (ii) promotion of exchange of information and knowledge regarding best practices through traditional and new information technology; and (iii) identification of areas in which further ADB assistance is feasible and desirable as well as areas in which some GMS countries could help others.

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

## 21. Regional Round Table on Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Regional

**Executing Agencies** : Asian Development Bank  
**TA Type** : Training  
**Amount (\$'000)** : 90.0  
**ADBBO Listing** : Not listed  
**Date Approved** : 21 December 2000

### Project Description :

The main objective of the RETA is to provide an opportunity to ADB's DMCs in Region West to understand and directly observe India's successful experience with ICT development. This will permit the DMCs to support and facilitate ICT development in their respective countries.

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