

**MONTHLY REPORT ON SMALL-SCALE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS
NOT EXCEEDING \$150,000 PER PROJECT
December 2004**

1. Support to Official Development Assistance (ODA) Management and Implementation in Viet Nam, Viet Nam^a

Executing Agency : Foreign Economic Relations Department, Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI)
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 1 October 2004
Date Approved : 10 November 2004

Project Description :

The overall goal of the TA is to assist the Government in its efforts to improve effectiveness of its ODA management and implementation. The purpose of the TA is to support the MPI in its efforts to improve ODA management and implementation, with special focus on ADB assistance, covering areas such as disbursement, project processing, and possible borrowing from ADB from its Ordinary Capital Resource (OCR). The key outputs would include: (i) further harmonization of procedures within the government system and between the Government and ODA partners; (ii) support to partnership activities and events to ensure optimal coordination of ODA; (iii) first-hand exposure to regional good practices in ODA management, including the use and management of ADB's OCRs, through structured study tours in the region by key government officials; (iv) training workshops on new products and procedures for government officials; (v) guidelines and training for processing of regional TA projects; and (vi) other relevant activities identified by the government and ADB during the TA implementation.

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

2. Increasing Ownership and Effective Demand for Improved Education, Marshall Islands

Executing Agency : Ministry of Education
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 14 October 2004
Date Approved : 2 December 2004

Project Description :

The overall purpose of the TA is to raise ownership and effective demand for improved public services through strengthened, informed, and empowered participation and to provide positive directions for further assistance to public service development. The TA's outputs are: (i) educational videos and other media as relevant, (ii) a series of facilitated meetings and the participation of relevant users, (iii) strengthening the capacity

^a Inadvertently omitted in the November 2004 report.

to use participatory processes, (iv) participants' design of pilot institution(s), (v) independent monitoring and reporting, and (vi) presentation of the overall results to the leadership of the RMI.

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

3. Formulation of State Roads Development Plan, Kazakhstan

Executing Agency : Ministry of Transport and Communication
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 8 October 2004
Date Approved : 3 December 2004

Project Description :

The objective of the TA is to develop a comprehensive program for sustainable development of state roads during 2006-2015 in line with the Government's strategy, thereby strengthening and improving road sector contribution to economic development and regional cooperation. The TA will assist the Government to (i) identify strategic goals and priorities for development of state roads based on among others economic feasibility, (ii) develop 10-year phased plan for development of state roads infrastructure, (iii) recommend institutional and organizational reforms needed to manage the state roads, (iv) review existing sectoral policies and propose reforms to improve road asset management, cost recovery, procurement and contract administration, quality control and monitoring, road safety, technical standards, environment and social aspects, (v) prepare recommendations for gradual improvement of domestic consulting and construction industry, (vi) develop an integrated road sector development plan 2006-2015 combining state and rural roads, and (vii) prepare a phased implementation plan.

Status of Consulting Services: International consultant has been engaged and fielded. Recruitment of domestic consultants is in process and will be completed by end January 2005.

4. Country Assistance Program Evaluation on Uzbekistan, Uzbekistan

Executing Agency : None
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 27 October 2004
Date Approved : 3 December 2004

Project Description :

The Country Assistance Program Evaluation (CAPE), which will be financed from this TA, aims to contribute to improving the quality of the next country strategy and program by informing decision makers about past performance and current issues. Its purpose is to generate evaluative information against the issues raised.

Status of Consulting Services: Recruitment of consultants is underway.

5. Capacity Building Support to Government Inspectorate of Viet Nam, Viet Nam

Executing Agency : Government Inspectorate (GI)
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 22 November 2004
Date Approved : 7 December 2004

Project Description :

The overall goal of the TA is to assist the Government in implementing its anticorruption initiatives. The purpose of the TA is to assist GI in the start-ups of its capacity building to implement the Government's anticorruption measures more effectively. The TA will focus on assisting GI in three major areas – (i) anti-corruption advocacy and public awareness and preparation of an outline communication strategy; (ii) development and implementation of pilot information management system for computerized record keeping and information processing and preparation of an outline strategy for its further development; and (iii) training of GI officials in communication and in developing communication strategy and program. These start-up actions will make GI relatively stronger in systematically developing a comprehensive strategy and programs in these key areas, and implementing its mandate to fight against corruption. The expected major outcomes would be (i) more active involvement of all social segments and media in discussion on corruption and their support in the Government's fight against corruption, (ii) better access to information for public, and (iii) better performance by GI in implementing its mandate for anticorruption.

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

6. Road and Road Sector Assessment Study, Pakistan

Executing Agency : None
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 29 October 2004
Date Approved : 9 December 2004

Project Description :

The objective of the TA is to provide information for the completion of a sector assistance program evaluation (SAPE) for the road sector of Pakistan. In turn, the SAPE is expected to contribute to an improvement in the country program and strategy and the design of road sector loan and TA projects. The TA information will focus on the (i) efficacy, efficiency, sustainability, and other impacts of a sample of specific road projects and road components; and (ii) the broad questions of the relevancy and appropriateness of ADB's assistance, common implementation concerns, and the lessons and recommendations emanating from the review of these questions and concerns. The TA will also provide a preliminary assessment relating to corruption. The information generated by the TA will contribute a major part of the SAPE's data requirements. The output will be a report containing the results of the TA.

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

7. Phase I: Song Bung 4 Hydropower, Viet Nam

Executing Agency : Electricity of Vietnam (EVN)
TA Type : Project Preparatory
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 25 November 2004
Date Approved : 13 December 2004

Project Description :

The objective of the TA is to prepare the proposed 165 MW Song Bung 4 Hydropower Project located in Vu Gia-Thu Bon river basin in Quang Nam province in central Viet Nam for ADB financing. A dam (120 meters (m) high, 360 m long and 340 m wide) would be built across the Bung River creating a reservoir with a storage capacity of 621 million cubic meters and a surface area of 18.4 square kilometers. It has been estimated that reservoir inundation would require 188 mainly ethnic minority families (1096 individuals) in 5 hamlets and 10 households from flooded section of highway 14D to be resettled. The total project cost has been estimated at D3,425 billion(\$218 million).

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

8. Institutional Strengthening of the Committee on Water Resources, Kazakhstan

Executing Agency : Committee of Water Resources (CWR)
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 27 August 2004
Date Approved : 15 December 2004

Project Description :

The overall goal of the TA is to provide safe and sustainable water supply to the poor people. The main purposes of the TA are to (i) analyze the current structural and institutional set up of the CWR in relation to the Sector Program for Drinking Water; (ii) review current policies on water tariff setting, sector planning, and budgeting; (iii) propose measures to strengthen CWR's capacity to oversee water sector reforms; (iv) propose capacity building programs tailored to the needs of CWR staff at the central and regional levels; (v) design an implementation plan for capacity building, including training programs and provision of equipment as needed; (vi) propose possible strategies aimed to increase the effectiveness of inter-agency cooperation; and (vii) propose appropriate measures to improve planning, budgeting, and financial management. The expected outputs of the TA will be (i) CWR staff at all levels trained and prepared to deal with sector related issues; (ii) rational subdivision of work responsibilities among CWR personnel; (iii) improved capacity of CWR in strategic decision making; (iv) an improved capacity in planning and setting sector priorities; and (v) a revised basis for water tariff calculation and setting.

Status of Consulting Services: Consultants will be recruited in the fourth week of January 2005.

9. Capacity Building of the Alternative Energy Development Board, Pakistan

Executing Agency : Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB)
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 8 October 2004
Date Approved : 17 December 2004

Project Description :

The purpose of the TA is to strengthen the institutional capacity and technical capability of AEDB to facilitate and coordinate Government of Pakistan's efforts to promote the development of renewable energy (RE). The TA will result in: (i) allowing AEDB to more effectively carry out its mandate to facilitate and coordinate various RE initiatives, (ii) capacity building of existing and new AEDB staff, and (iii) a communications and outreach strategy to raise national awareness of RE.

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

10. Facilitating Public-Private Partnership Initiative in National Highway Development, Pakistan

Executing Agency : National Highway Authority
TA Type : Project Preparatory
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 1 December 2004
Date Approved : 20 December 2004

Project Description :

The purpose of the TA is to help design appropriate mechanisms for accelerating National Highways (NH) and motorway development through increased private sector financing in Pakistan, thereby promoting economic growth and reducing poverty. The TA will identify the key constraints to increased private sector financing in NH and motorway development, and determine what further assistance is required to address the constraints and create an enabling environment for private sector financing in highway development. In the process, the policy, regulatory and institutional issues as well as the environment for mobilizing long-term resources will be reviewed and follow-up measures/interventions to be taken by the Government will be identified. Appropriate time-bound actions will be developed for the Government to proceed with project development under the public-private partnership scheme.

Status of Consulting Services: Recruitment of consultants to commence in the third week of January 2005.

11. Rationalization of Public Enterprises (Phase 2), Tonga

Executing Agency : Ministry of Finance
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 17 September 2004
Date Approved : 20 December 2004

Project Description :

The goal of the TA is to improve the environment for the private sector, which directly supports the strategic focus of ADB's country assistance strategy for Tonga. The purpose of the TA is to help rationalize the Government's public enterprise portfolio. The TA's output will be the transformation of at least one public enterprise, and an improved capacity of the Public Enterprise Division in managing the public enterprise portfolio.

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

12. Legislation for Private Sector Development, Fed. States of Micronesia

Executing Agency : Department of Finance and Administration
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 20 September 2004
Date Approved : 23 December 2004

Project Description :

The purpose of the TA is to support the governments in fulfilling conditions for release of the 2nd tranche under the Private Sector Development Program. The TA outputs include: (i) enactment and promulgation in each of the states and at national level of legislation for foreign direct investment; long-term leasing of land mortgage; and mortgage-secured lending, and (ii) at least one public enterprise transformed in each of the 4 states and at national level.

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

13. HIV/AIDS in the Pacific: ADB's Response, Regional

Executing Agency : Asian Development Bank
TA Type : Research
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 28 October 2004
Date Approved : 17 December 2004

Project Description :

The long-term goal of the TA is to assist the Pacific developing member countries (PDMCs) in reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS and to achieve the millennium development goal and target of halting and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS. The objective is to strengthen ADB's support for HIV/AIDS related activities in the Pacific. The purpose of the

TA is to identify and define ADB's role in combating HIV/AIDS in the subregion in consultation with PDMCs and regional agencies and development partners. The TA will identify a clear strategy and program of activities for ADB to pursue at regional and country level.

Status of Consulting Services: Action to recruit consultants has commenced.

14. Asia-Pacific Justice Forum, Regional

Executing Agency : Asian Development Bank
TA Type : Conference
TA Amount (\$'000) : 92.0
ADBBO Listing : Not listed^a
Date Approved : 17 December 2004

Project Description :

A number of countries in the Asia-Pacific region now expressly recognize the importance of efficient and functional judicial systems for economic development. Many countries in the region have embarked on judicial reform while others are contemplating such programs. The TA's objective is to share best practices in the development and improvement of a strong, independent, effective and efficient judicial sector in countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Specifically, the RETA will co-finance a project of Singapore's Subordinate Courts, to which the World Bank and Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs will also contribute. The project will facilitate the exchange of ideas and experiences among high-level judicial and legal participants from countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The Forum will provide ADB an opportunity to share its experiences and play a lead role in policy dialogue on judicial reform, access to justice and related matters.

Status of Consulting Services: No consultant is required.

15. Challenges in Implementing Access to Justice Reforms, Regional

Executing Agency : Asian Development Bank
TA Type : Conference
TA Amount (\$'000) : 75.0
ADBBO Listing : Not listed^a
Date Approved : 17 December 2004

Project Description :

The purpose of the TA is to generate solutions to the operational concerns and other challenges encountered by ADB counterparts managing legal and judicial reform initiatives from the shared experiences and practical knowledge of counterparts in other countries and regions. The output of the TA is a two and a half day workshop with three components designed to allow ADB counterparts to forge links and learn from common experiences in managing reform initiatives in their respective countries. The first component will tackle the economic costs of disorder and reforming the criminal justice system with a particular focus on transforming the police organization into more effective

^a Waiver to publish in ADB Business Opportunities approved by Management.

and accountable institutions for public safety. The second component will discuss operational concerns of ADB counterparts managing the judicial reform process in DMCs in Asia and the Pacific. The third component will be a side workshop reviewing ADB procedures that affect the management of projects.

Status of Consulting Services: No consultant is required.

16. Symposium on Judicial Reform and Human Security, Regional

Executing Agency : Asian Development Bank
TA Type : Conference
TA Amount (\$'000) : 110.0
ADBBO Listing : Not listed^a
Date Approved : 22 December 2004

Project Description :

Implementing the legal framework at all levels of society is crucial to establishing human security. In order to enable the judiciary and criminal justice system to protect society's most vulnerable, it is necessary to explore avenues through which judicial reforms can contribute to upholding human security. The goal of the symposium on judicial reform and human security is to achieve human security through judicial reform within the region. Its purpose is to critically analyze the suggested approaches to separating the judiciary from the executive branch, establishing an independent professional prosecution system, and making police reform a crucial component of judicial reform initiatives. By convening the various stakeholders and external supporters of the reform process within the Asia-Pacific region, the symposium aims to open a dialogue among the stakeholders and reform process' supporters and lead to greater cooperation and, possibly, a consensus on the overall thrust of the proposed changes. Moreover, the symposium will be a venue to explicitly articulate key strategies (ensuring judicial and prosecutorial independence and police reform) that can serve as ammunition in the fight against corruption and other abuses of power.

Status of Consulting Services: No consultant is required.

17. Improving the Outreach of Formal Financial Institutions, Regional

Executing Agency : Asian Development Bank
TA Type : Study
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 17 November 2004
Date Approved : 28 December 2004

Project Description :

In support of ADB's poverty reduction strategy, the RETA will help improve access to financial services by identifying replicable operational approaches to increasing the socio-economic and geographic outreach of existing financial service providers, particularly banks and insurance companies. Expected outputs include (i) country-specific

^a Waiver to publish in ADB Business Opportunities approved by Management.

assessments on the outreach of formal, commercially oriented financial institutions; and (ii) a framework for increasing outreach by commercial financial institutions.

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