

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

1. Implementing the National Involuntary Resettlement Policy, Sri Lanka

Executing Agency : Ministry of Lands (MOL)
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 100.0
ADBBO Listing : 1 October 2003
Date Approved : 15 December 2003

Project Description :

The objective of the TA is to assist the Government and its implementing ministries to operationalize the procedures for smooth implementation of the National Involuntary Resettlement Policy (NIRP) and the Land Acquisition Act (LAA). Key activities to be undertaken are as follows: (i) assist MOL to prepare regulations applicable to the LAA and NIRP; (ii) refine, operationalize and review the adequacy and function of the institutional framework recommended under TAs 3246 and 3792; (iii) support the Central Environment Authority (CEA) in preparatory activities to institutionalize and implement NIRP; (iv) provide required training and streamline coordination between MOL and CEA; and (v) provide nationwide awareness and training on NIRP and the LAA, particularly in the provinces and to the private sector.

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

2. Investment Climate and Productivity Study, Lao PDR

Executing Agency : Planning Department
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 16 October 2003
Date Approved : 16 December 2003

Project Description :

The goal of the TA is to help improve the environment for doing business in the Lao PDR, thereby fostering private sector development. In particular, the TA will identify specific constraints to promoting investment and productivity in the cross border areas and strategic urban centers (including Louang Phrabang and Xay) in the northern provinces, as well as Vientiane and Savannakhet province (GMS: East-West corridor area). In addition, the TA will also benchmark the investment climate and productivity in the Lao PDR, thereby allowing one to monitor improvements in the business environment through subsequent studies as well as to compare the investment climate and productivity in the Lao PDR with neighboring countries. Finally, the TA will assist in building capacity to monitor the investment climate. This capacity building will take place through on-the-job training and relate to the design and execution of scientific surveys aimed at assessing the investment climate and productivity.

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

3. Support to Poverty Reduction Activities in Viet Nam, Viet Nam

Executing Agency : Viet Nam Resident Mission
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 125.0
ADBBO Listing : 21 October 2003
Date Approved : 12 December 2003

Project Description :

The overall goal of the TA is to contribute to Viet Nam's poverty reduction goal. Its purpose is to conduct activities to support poverty reduction and to strengthen local capacity in analysis, monitoring, project support, policy dialogue, and knowledge management on poverty reduction.

Status of Consulting Services: Recruitment of consultants is underway.

4. Capacity Building for Pollution Taxation and Resource Mobilization for Environment and Natural Resource Sectors, Thailand

Executing Agency : Fiscal Policy Office under the Ministry of Finance
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 60.0
ADBBO Listing : 25 November 2002
Date Approved : 12 December 2003
Project Description :

The immediate objective is to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of finance and concerned line agencies for (i) designing and implementing pollution taxation policy plan; and (ii) mobilizing and allocating appropriate resources for improving the management of country's environment and natural resource sectors.

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

5. Strengthening Education Planning and Financial Management, Tajikistan

Executing Agency : President's Office
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 5 January 2004
Date Approved : 22 December 2003

Project Description :

The purpose of the TA is to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Education (MOE) to utilize information from the educational management information system to improve planning and financial management, which is an important requirement of the Education Sector Reform Project. The TA will help MOE to draw on experiences from different initiatives at the national and district levels and consolidate different approaches to target resources to priority expenditures and priority groups. The TA will (i) assist MOE develop medium term education plans underpinned by public expenditure review and

medium term expenditure framework; and (ii) propose management development for improving educational planning and financial management.

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

6. Support for Poverty Reduction Initiatives in Pakistan, Pakistan

Executing Agency : Asian Development Bank
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 134.0
ADBBO Listing : 3 October 2003
Date Approved : 18 December 2003

Project Description :

The goal of this TA is to expand and improve analytical and policy dialogue work on poverty in Pakistan, and enhance the poverty focus of development interventions. The purpose is to strengthen the capacity of the poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP) Secretariat for improved poverty analysis and research; monitoring and evaluation of PRSP implementation; undertaking policy dialogue on relevant issues; and providing project support for greater impact on poverty reduction.

Status of Consulting Services: Recruitment of consultants is underway.

7. Support for Networking for Policy-Based Research in Pakistan, Pakistan

Executing Agency : Ministry of Finance
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 3 December 2003
Date Approved : 18 December 2003

Project Description :

The goal of this TA is to develop effective and result-oriented governance, economic, and social policies in Pakistan. Its purpose is to promote high quality research, debate, and discourse on governance, economic, and social policies in Pakistan through the establishment of a network of relevant researchers, academics, development practitioners, lawyers, and other professionals (hereafter called the Network), recognized for producing quality policy research. The specific objectives of the TA are: (a) supporting domestic research and analysis work, which contributes to and influences policy making on governance, and economic and social policy issues, and developing local capacity and capability for such work; (b) building linkages between the Government and the academia and research professionals for better understanding and appreciation of each other's views and perspectives on policy issues; and (c) supporting greater interaction and joint research projects among the academia and researchers for building greater synergies and providing opportunities for exchange of ideas and information.

Status of Consulting Services: No consultant is required.

8. Supporting the Implementation of the Uniform Chart of Accounts for Commercial Banks, Cambodia

Executing Agency : National Bank of Cambodia (NBC)
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 79.0
ADBBO Listing : 25 November 2003
Date Approved : 18 December 2003

Project Description :

The project aims at enhancing the public confidence in the banking sector development in Cambodia. This is done through strengthening bank supervision as well as information disclosure of commercial banks by implementing the uniform chart of accounts (COA) for commercial banks. The project will provide training for NBC in understanding of COA, and how to supervise the compliance of commercial banks. The project will also guide NBC staff in the supervising process. Moreover, the project will provide training and guidance for commercial banks in order to comply with the requirements regarding NBC regulations on COA. The anticipated date for fully implementing the uniform COA for commercial banks is 1 January 2005.

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

9. Capacity Building for Ministry of Finance to Support Tariff, Industry and Subsidy Analysis for the Purpose of WTO Accession, Viet Nam

Executing Agency : Ministry of Finance (MOF)
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 11 November 2003
Date Approved : 18 December 2003

Project Description :

The TA aims to strengthen the capacity of MOF to effectively participate in the World Trade Organization (WTO) accession negotiations, through provision of in-depth study on tariff, the manufacturing sector and subsidies, and training of MOF officials to analyze tariff policies, preparing tariff offers and subsidies, and training of MOF officials to analyze tariff policies, preparing tariff offers and proposals in relation to subsidies and other revenue-related areas to help the Viet Nam WTO negotiating team make well-founded and informed decisions; as well as enhanced capacity for implementation of the trade agreements.

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

10. Procurement Management Capacity Building, Mongolia

Executing Agency : Public Procurement Coordination Authority, Ministry of Finance and Economy
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0

ADBBO Listing : 17 June 2003
Date Approved : 18 December 2003

Project Description :

The objective of the follow-up TA is to build on the work carried out under TA 3031-MON and TA 3628-MON to develop procurement management capacity and successfully implement procurement reforms. As part of ADB's overall thrust in governance, in line with the Government's demonstrated desire to strengthen public sector procurement, and consistent with the overall objective of the parallel efforts of the World Bank and ADB towards more efficient and transparent public procurement in Mongolia, the TA will focus on strengthening the capacity of institutions responsible for procurement.

Status of Consulting Services: Recruitment of consultants is underway.

11. Education Sector Master Plan, Tuvalu

Executing Agency : Ministry of Education and Sports
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 110.0
ADBBO Listing : 4 December 2003
Date Approved : 19 December 2003

Project Description :

The purpose of this TA is to assist the Government in prioritizing strategies and developing action plans, with phased and costed investment programs to improve access, quality, and efficiency of the education system, as well as improve cost-effectiveness in the use of education resources. It will also help the Government develop a formal mechanism and framework to facilitate coordination of domestic and foreign-funded inputs to the education sector.

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

12. Third Asia Pacific Roundtable Meeting, Regional

Executing Agency : Asian Development Bank
TA Type : Conference
TA Amount (\$'000) : 50.0
ADBBO Listing : 24 November 2003
Date Approved : 19 December 2003

Project Description :

The overall purpose of the Roundtable Meeting is to discuss and reach agreement on sensitive issues of security, cooperation, institutions and governance that constrain the further development of the region. Within the overall theme and coverage, the nexus of trade and regional cooperation, the environment for private investment, and related governance issues are key to the future of the Pacific. The Region's leaders and other senior policy decision makers have been invited to the Roundtable Meeting. While the

meeting will emphasize informality and confidentiality in the interest of exchange and learning, brief presentations will also be made.

Status of Consulting Services: No consultant is required.

13. Institutional Strengthening and Building Capacity to Handle Public Procurement, Regional

Executing Agency : Asian Development Bank
TA Type : Training
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 10 December 2003
Date Approved : 23 December 2003

Project Description :

The TA would be implemented in Samoa and Tonga. The objective of the TA is to provide the procurement staff of various government agencies authorized to undertake public procurement, with an understanding of principles and techniques of procurement, and will familiarize them with the guidelines and procedures for procurement of goods and works, selection and engagement of consultants, and other associated activities. The training workshops will also provide the participants with an opportunity to share and learn from the experience of participants from different organizations, including those handling ADB projects.

Status of Consulting Services: Recruitment process to commence in March 2004.

14. Disbursement Training Seminars for DMCs, 2004-2005, Regional

Executing Agency : Asian Development Bank
TA Type : Training
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 1 October 2003
Date Approved : 12 November 2003

Project Description :

The disbursement seminars and workshops aim to: (i) provide target participants with an opportunity to familiarize themselves with ADB's loan disbursement procedures and requirements in implementing ADB-financed projects; (ii) enhance participants' understanding on the government's financial regulations and procedures; (iii) provide participants with financial control techniques in project implementation; and (iv) adopt the "training of trainers" approach enabling the trained participants to transfer the knowledge to their colleagues in the EAs and borrowing governments.

Status of Consulting Services: No consultant is required.