

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

1. Assistance to the Privatization Commission, Bangladesh

Executing Agency : Privatization Commission (PC)
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 13 March 2003
Date Approved : 2 May 2003

Project Description :

The TA will assist the PC to effectively carry out privatization processes through “learning by doing” a complete privatization process from conducting due diligence to closing the transaction for a select pilot state-owned enterprise (SOE). It is envisaged that PC will gain better understanding of privatization processes and apply its “on-the-job” learning experience to the subsequent divestment of other SOEs. The use of appropriate valuation methods and divestment techniques will enable the Government to maximize sales proceeds, which could be used to meet other fiscal requirements. The support of the Government in the privatization processes will demonstrate its commitment to privatization and create a momentum for future transactions. Divestment of shares through public offering and listing on the stock exchanges would enhance the supply of quality shares on the exchanges and contribute to the development of the Bangladesh capital market.

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

2. Integrating the Poor in Regional Trade through Standard-Setting for Private Sector Development, Lao PDR

Executing Agency : Ministry of Industry and Handicraft
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 7 February 2003
Date Approved : 9 May 2003

Project Description :

The purposes of the TA are to (i) assist in the streamlining and upgrading of the standards regulatory framework in the context of the World Trade Organization, and (ii) provide consistent training in industry standards skills development for silk producers in order to alleviate poverty through improved international product market access.

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

3. Agriculture Sector Review, Tonga

Executing Agency : Ministry of Finance
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 1 April 2003
Date Approved : 9 May 2003

Project Description :

The purpose of the TA is to produce a foundation from which to formulate a sector-wide long-term development assistance strategy for the agriculture sector. The output will be a comprehensive sector review encompassing (i) identification of appropriate role and responsibilities of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food to assist private sector development and expansion, (ii) identification of market and non-market failures, (iii) assessment of competitiveness and factors affecting competitiveness in different agriculture industries, (iv) identification of necessary policy changes to enable the agriculture sector to contribute to economic growth, and (v) assessment of possible public sector investment projects.

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

4. Strengthening Environmental Sector Capacity, Bhutan

Executing Agency : National Environmental Commission Secretariat
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 28 January 2003
Date Approved : 27 May 2003

Project Description :

As spelled out in the TA framework, the goal of the TA is to contribute to Bhutan's sustainable development in line with the 1990 Paro Declaration and 5-Year Plans that followed. The purpose of the intervention is to establish an enabling environment for improving the effective adoption and implementation of the Environmental Assessment (EA) Act, 2000 and its Regulation through delivery of following outputs: (i) updated Environmental Assessment Process manual; (ii) updated six existing EA Sectoral Guidelines; (iii) developed EA sectoral guidelines on Tourism and Urban Development and applicable Environmental Codes of Practice; (iv) updated Environmental Standards; and (v) disseminated outputs to promote private sector development in using the EA sectoral guidelines, environmental codes of practice and environmental standards.

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

5. Port Sector Master Plan, Sri Lanka

Executing Agency : Ministry of Port Development and Shipping
TA Type : Advisory and Operational
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : Not listed^a
Date Approved : 27 May 2003

Project Description :

The objective of this TA is to assist the Government to foster economic growth in the country by (i) ensuring that the ports sector has sufficient capacity to cater for demand resulting from increased economic activities; (ii) allocating and utilizing resources for the ports sector efficiently; and (iii) taking into account development of competing transport modes especially highways when considering proposals for port development. The output of this TA will be a port sector master plan for Sri Lanka which will help guide policy formulation and infrastructure investment in the sector.

Status of Consulting Services: Recruitment of consultants is underway.

6. Third Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Seminar on Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures, Regional

Executing Agency : Asian Development Bank
TA Type : Training
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : Not listed^a
Date Approved : 2 May 2003

Project Description :

The goal of the seminar is to facilitate trade in developing countries and develop closer cooperation among customs authorities between developed and developing countries. The purpose is to facilitate improved simplified and harmonized customs procedures in ASEM Asian countries so as to reduce overall transaction costs. The seminar will help develop closer cooperation in the area of customs procedure simplification and harmonization among Customs authorities in Asia and Europe, with inputs from the business communities in ASEM partners, and interested international and regional institutions. The seminar is primarily a consultative process, with discussion on current thinking on selected topics. The outputs of the TA will include (i) a seminar and opportunities for dialogue and exchange of views, (ii) publication of proceedings for broader distribution, (iii) a strengthened informal network, and (iv) recommendations to the 7th Meeting of the ASEM Procedures Working Group.

Status of Consulting Services: No consultant is required.

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

7. External Forum on Gender and Development (EFG)-Phase 2, Regional

Executing Agency : Asian Development Bank
TA Type : Training
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 25 April 2003
Date Approved : 6 May 2003

Project Description :

The TA will support the continuation of the EFG as a vehicle to more effectively mainstream gender issues in ADB's operations and to promote gender equity in the Asia and Pacific region. It will also assist in consolidating gains made, to date, and advance in areas where progress has been slow. Specifically, the TA will support (i) periodic meetings of the EFG; (ii) participation of EFG members in gender training, seminars and other activities at ADB Headquarters and in developing member countries; and (iii) preparation of related background documents and reports.

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

8. Financing Needs for HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care in Asia and the Pacific, Regional

Executing Agency : Asian Development Bank
TA Type : Training
TA Amount (\$'000) : 150.0
ADBBO Listing : 10 April 2003
Date Approved : 16 May 2003

Project Description :

The TA aims to develop the requisite tools and background information required for effective advocacy with top policymakers and international development agencies to enhance the response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the region. Specifically, the TA will support collaborative work with UNAIDS for developing tools and using them to assess existing financing needs and gaps in providing a package of essential HIV/AIDS prevention and care interventions in the region. The main outputs of the TA will include a manual for explaining steps of estimation of resource needs and strategic allocation of resources and computer software for assessing unit costs to estimate resource needs and a report on the financing needs and gaps in the region.

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