



## Regional: Statistical Business Registers for Improved Information on Small, Medium-Sized, and Large Enterprises

Project Name	Statistical Business Registers for Improved Information on Small, Medium-Sized, and Large Enterprises		
Project Number	47108-001		
Country	Regional		
Project Status	Active		
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance		
Source of Funding / Amount	<b>TA 8594-REG: Statistical Business Registers for Improved Information on Small, Medium and Large Enterprises</b>		
	Technical Assistance Special Fund		US\$ 750,000.00
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth		
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development		
Sector / Subsector	<b>Public sector management</b> - Economic affairs management		
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming			
Description	<p>Statistical business register (SBR) is a register of enterprises or establishments involved in a business activity that is maintained by the National Statistical Office (NSO) or other parts of National Statistical System (NSS). SBR is closely linked to business registry/ies. Business registries facilitate registration of businesses as per regulatory requirements of the country and may be residing in different geographical locations, ministries or regulatory authorities. SBR on the other hand is usually centralized in the NSO and draws on the information from these registers, assembled into a directory of businesses which is then used to draw sample and population data for conducting surveys and censuses to produce official statistics. SBR hence is of fundamental importance to the NSO for the compilation of official statistics in accordance with international standards and frameworks such as the System of National Accounts 2008. Aside from being used for the conduct of surveys, SBR is also used in reconciling and/or incorporating survey results with data from administrative sources such as that obtained from tax authorities and thus providing an improved basis for production of official statistics, which are vital inputs in policy/strategy formulation such as the of country partnership strategies and for monitoring MDGs.</p> <p>Many Developing Member Countries (DMCs) in Asia and the Pacific, with ADB support, are currently in the process of modernizing, strengthening and improving their business registries to improve the overall business environment and facilitate private sector development . Given the close link between the business registries and the SBRs, and the strong demand in the region for assistance in this area , there is an opportunity and a need to support DMCs in establishing and improving their SBRs. This technical assistance (TA) will build on and complement the ongoing initiatives by ADB's regional departments by strengthening the link between SBRs and business registers, ensuring that the information collected via business registries is optimized by the NSSs, and contributes towards improved coordination among relevant national agencies in the collection and compilation of data on small, medium (SME) and large enterprises. These efforts would aid in improving and expanding the statistical information on SMEs and large enterprises and reducing both costs and response burden. The design and monitoring framework is in Appendix 1.</p>		

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy

The benefits of having well established and functioning SBR go well beyond improving the quality of economic and business statistics as it also has the potential to significantly enrich the depth of knowledge about establishments. Having good SBR can meaningfully improve the basic information on SMEs and large enterprises. It provides valuable information not only about the number of enterprises, their births and survival rates, but also their key characteristics such as principal activity, number of employees, size of turnover, etc.,. Such structural business statistics are lacking in the DMCs which are useful input into strategy formulation and evaluating the impact of development projects, including national SMEs development policies and related government support measures. Given that a clear majority of workers in many DMCs are employed in SMEs , and the role SMEs play in lifting people out of poverty, SBRs can contribute to meeting the data needs for timely intervention to further enhance the role of SMEs in national strategies for growth, job creation and social cohesion. Further as SMEs are crucial to more sustainable and inclusive growth, they can only fulfill this potential if they can obtain the finance necessary to start and grow their businesses. Herein SBRs can assist in narrowing the supply-demand information gap in SME finance and contribute to broadening new financing modalities that SMEs can access.

In many DMCs there is increasing pressure to reduce the burden on enterprises to supply information for statistical surveys while data users and policy makers are constantly presenting new requirements. Well established SBR can assist in reconciling these conflicting needs by allowing surveys to be distributed more effectively and economically between various enterprises and in so doing reduce response burden and improve efficiency of the overall data collection process. For instance using the same information for different purposes, the total amount of information requested each time can be reduced. Response burden is particularly high among enterprises in DMCs as statistical surveys are often uncoordinated among the NSSs and various government agencies resulting in a high percentage of non-responses to statistical surveys. Further internationalization and formation of multinational enterprise groups spanning geographical boundaries has been increasing in the recent past and they have become an important part of the industrialization landscape in many DMCs. However correctly accounting for their contribution in countries' macro-economic statistics (GDP/GNI, balance of payments, foreign direct investment, etc) can be challenging. By profiling these complex enterprises and clearly mapping their structure and activities, SBR can not only meet the needs of policy makers, but also ensure that their full contribution is reflected correctly and consistently across all relevant statistics.

A 2009 regional survey indicated that only 29 out of 45 ADB DMCs had functioning SBRs of which only 18 had what could be described as comprehensive SBRs. The situation in Asia and the Pacific differs considerably from among the more developed statistical systems of the OECD countries, which treat SBRs as foundations of their NSSs, ensuring that they are up-to-date, integrated and comprehensive. The importance of SBRs has also been recognized in the African region, where the African Development Bank has recently developed the Guidelines for Building Statistical Business Registers in Africa and is actively working with its member countries on their practical application.

The need to establish and improve SBRs in Asia and the Pacific has been identified as a top regional priority for statistical development by the UNESCAP Committee on Statistics of which ADB is a member. The Committee on Statistics, the highest intergovernmental forum for statistics in Asia and the Pacific and which brings together the heads of NSSs from the region and international organizations involved in statistical development (including ADB), recognized this importance by endorsing the Regional programme for the improvement of economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific and the Implementation plan for the regional programme at its sessions in 2010 and 2012 respectively. These documents identify SBRs as one of the fundamental components of the statistical infrastructure that is needed for the production of a core set of economic statistics, and stress the significant and urgent need for the development of the statistical capacity in this area. Yet despite this recognition there is very little support currently provided to DMCs and no coordinated regional assistance is being implemented. The need for support in this area has also been communicated directly by NSSs from the region to statisticians in the Development Indicators and Policy Research Division (ERDI), who work closely with most of them and are members of a number of committees/steering groups on official statistics.

Impact	Improved information on small, medium and large enterprises and reduction in response burden of enterprises in participating DMCs
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**Project Outcome**

Description of Outcome	Increased number of SBRs established or improved in participating DMCs
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Progress Toward Outcome

**Implementation Progress**

Description of Project Outputs	Assessments of the current SBRs situation and statistical capacity in participating DMCs; National proposal for developing and improving SBRs; Training programmes and study visits designed and organized; Strategies for continuing maintenance and improvement of SBRs; A standardized guide for NSSs on developing and improving SBRs published and disseminated; NSSs' staff trained on developing and improving SBRs; Asia-Pacific informal network for SBRs experts
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Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)

Geographical Location

## Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects

Involuntary Resettlement

Indigenous Peoples

### Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design

During Project Implementation

## Business Opportunities

Consulting Services The R-CDTA is expected to finance up to 64 person-months of consulting services and will require 2 international statisticians (8 person-months total); 1 international manuscript editor (1 person-month); 3 national IT experts (15 person-months total); 3 national statisticians (15 person-months total); and 1 national consultant (25 person-months). The outlines of the specific terms of reference for the consultants are in Appendix 3. All consultants will be selected and engaged individually by ADB in accordance with its Guidelines on the Use of Consultants (2013, as amended from time to time). ERDI will designate a national staff for contract administration on regular basis to ensure smooth processing and implementation. Procurement and disbursement will conform to ADB's Procurement Guidelines (2013, as amended from time to time) and Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook (2010, as amended from time to time). Proper turnover of equipment, where applicable, will also be ensured at the project's completion date. Collaborations with other NSSs in the region, and selected international organizations will be established in the course of the TA implementation and individual resource persons will be engaged from them to source expertise for training, facilitating workshops and providing need-based technical support. Assignment per resource person will not exceed 10 working days.

## Responsible Staff

Responsible ADB Officer	Mariasingham, Mahinthan Joseph
Responsible ADB Department	Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department
Responsible ADB Division	Development Indicators and Policy Research Division
Executing Agencies	<i>Asian Development Bank 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550, Philippines</i>

## Timetable

Concept Clearance	11 Nov 2013
Fact Finding	-
MRM	-
Approval	17 Dec 2013
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	03 Dec 2013

## TA 8594-REG

Milestones					
Approval	Signing Date	Effectivity Date	Closing		
			Original	Revised	Actual
17 Dec 2013	-	17 Dec 2013	28 Feb 2017	31 Dec 2017	-

Financing Plan/TA Utilization					Cumulative Disbursements			
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
750,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	750,000.00	17 Dec 2013	333,560.65

Project Page	<a href="https://www.adb.org/projects/47108-001/main">https://www.adb.org/projects/47108-001/main</a>
Request for Information	<a href="http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=47108-001">http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=47108-001</a>
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