



# Technical Assistance Report

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Project Number: 47328-001  
Research and Development Technical Assistance (RDТА)  
December 2013

**Asia Regional Integration Center, Phase V**  
(Cofinanced by the Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund)

Asian Development Bank

## ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
AEIM	–	Asian Economic Integration Monitor
ARIC	–	Asia Regional Integration Center
ASEAN	–	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
FTA	–	free trade agreement
OREI	–	Office of Regional Economic Integration
RCI	–	regional cooperation and integration
TA	–	technical assistance

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CLASSIFICATION

<b>Type</b>	–	Research and development technical assistance (RDTA)
<b>Targeting classification</b>	–	General intervention
<b>Sector (subsectors)</b>	–	Multisector (economic and public affairs management, trade and services, finance sector development)
<b>Themes (subthemes)</b>	–	<b>Regional cooperation and integration</b> (money and finance, cross-border infrastructure, trade and investments, other regional public goods), economic growth (promoting macroeconomic stability)
<b>Location (impact)</b>	–	Regional (high), national (high)
<b>Partnership</b>	–	Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund

## NOTE

In this report, "\$" refers to US dollars.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Asia Regional Integration Center (ARIC) was established in 2006 by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) through its Office of Regional Economic Integration (OREI) to (i) provide access to timely and relevant knowledge and information on regional cooperation and integration (RCI), (ii) assist regional economic monitoring and policy dialogue, and (iii) support research on RCI.<sup>1</sup> Since then, ARIC has helped increase the capacity of key stakeholders in the region to respond to regional challenges. Initially, ARIC stands for the Asia Recovery Information Center, which was established after the 1997 Asian financial crisis to provide reliable, timely, and accurate crisis-related information to restore confidence and support economic recovery in the region. Later, in March 2004, it was renamed the Asia Regional Information Center, providing information on recovery efforts in Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand; and later extended to cover the People's Republic of China, Singapore, and Viet Nam. In 2006, the newly renamed Asia Regional Integration Center was given a new mandate to serve as a one-stop, web-based knowledge and information portal on the progress of RCI. ARIC has since grown to become an acknowledged and reliable source of RCI information and knowledge. It also supports ADB's Strategy 2020, adopted in 2008, which defined regional integration as one of its three development agenda and RCI as one of its core specialization and operational areas.<sup>2</sup>

2. The fifth phase of the ARIC technical assistance (TA) will support the "3 Is" agenda of innovation, inclusion, and integration, which was highlighted by the ADB President at the 2013 Annual Meeting. The TA will assist the interplay between the "3 Is" by sharing innovation and knowledge through regional dialogue and cooperation, to promote more inclusive growth for the region. The TA will build on the success of past phases of the ARIC TA and help ADB analyze more complex, new RCI challenges. It will also help formulate concrete policy actions for the region in dealing with the continuing global transformation. The design and monitoring framework is in Appendix 1.<sup>3</sup>

## II. ISSUES

3. Regional economic integration plays a vital role in improving productivity, accelerating economic growth, and reducing poverty. It is thus a welcome development that RCI has gained momentum in Asia and the Pacific. For instance, intraregional trade rose from 54.9% in 2000 to 59.3% in 2010, though it has fallen back to 54.9% in 2012. Free trade agreements (FTAs) continue to proliferate—135 FTAs had been concluded by July 2013, up from 46 in 2000. The region's share of total foreign asset holdings also rose from 15.1% in 2008 to 18.5% in 2011.

4. However, while RCI has advanced since the Asian financial crisis, progress has been slow and gradual in many of today's complex and sensitive RCI areas, such as risk sharing, trade in services, labor mobility, and the "noodle bowl effect" caused by proliferation of bilateral and regional FTAs.<sup>4</sup> Political differences have also undermined RCI progress. After the global financial crisis, the region and the world have grown more interconnected and multipolar, and Asia stands to gain from strengthening regional ties. In particular, greater regional cooperation

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<sup>1</sup> In this paper, "region" refers to Asia and the Pacific. ADB will seek a no-objection letter from the relevant governments in the event that the technical assistance (TA) will undertake certain activities in their territory.

<sup>2</sup> ADB. 2008. *Strategy 2020: The Long-Term Strategic Framework of the Asian Development Bank, 2008–2020*. Manila.

<sup>3</sup> The TA first appeared in the business opportunities section of ADB's website on 7 November 2013.

<sup>4</sup> Noodle bowl effect refers to the complication that arises from the proliferation of free trade agreements.

will help Asia's economies develop more unified positions and policy options in relation to advanced and developing economies outside the region.

5. Asia's RCI model is unique. Different from Europe or other parts of the world, the region has made solid progress in RCI, based on its pragmatic, bottom-up, institution-light, and private-sector-led approach. After the 2008/09 global financial crisis, advanced economies are undergoing a prolonged period of structural adjustment and weaker economic growth—a “new normal.” This means Asia must become more self-reliant in developing new sources of growth. RCI can play a more central role than in the past by easing trade flows, promoting deeper financial integration, and creating seamless logistics and infrastructures. Sustained regional cooperation may also result in better coordinated macroeconomic, financial, and trade policies that help drive a more efficient and welfare-oriented region. Effective cooperation can help maximize net benefits and lay the foundation for more inclusive growth.

6. However, the eurozone sovereign debt crisis also underscores the need to understand the costs of greater integration. This is particularly relevant in terms of monetary and financial cooperation, where increased uncertainty and finance sector volatility continue to threaten the stability of global and regional economies. These key risk factors are important concerns for the region—and they need to be tracked, their regional implications considered, and measures to mitigate their effects defined.

7. ARIC holds a unique position to assist RCI, having gained expertise in disseminating RCI knowledge and information widely, efficiently, and inexpensively. By providing reliable, timely, and accurate information on RCI, ARIC will further help the region understand costs and benefits of regional integration. ARIC will also strengthen its collaboration with other departments of ADB, as well as institutions in the region, in both producing and disseminating knowledge on regional economic integration and cooperation.

8. Over the past 7 years, ARIC has become a reliable source of knowledge and information on RCI. It provides up-to-date information on (i) RCI-related studies, news, opinions, and editorials on RCI; (ii) indicator databases such as trade integration and FTAs; investment, macroeconomic, monetary, and financial indicators; tax incentives; and climate change action plans and commitments; (iii) calendars of economic data releases and RCI events; and (iv) early warning system indicators. Its key publication—the *Asian Economic Integration Monitor* (AEIM)—has helped policymakers in ADB developing member countries to increase awareness and knowledge on RCI trends and issues. The ARIC website and its publications have also been recognized by top-tier media like BBC, Bloomberg, CNBC, the Financial Times, Reuters, and Wall Street Journal as a reliable source of economic and RCI information. ARIC also assists the preparation of the economic prospects and policy issues for ASEAN+3, ADB's contribution to the semiannual ASEAN+3 finance and central bank deputies' meetings.<sup>5</sup>

9. From 1 January to 15 October 2013, the ARIC website has attracted 53,000 unique visitors with over 439,000 page views. Over 440 organizations ranging from multilateral, regional, academic, government, media, and private institutions have embedded links to the ARIC website. These include the Association of Southeast Asian Nations; Bloomberg; the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Australia); Department of Trade Negotiations (Thailand); East Asia Forum; Harvard University; International Labor Organization; Johns Hopkins University; Monash University; National University of Singapore; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; Reuters; the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization; United Nations; University of California, Berkeley; University of Melbourne; Wall

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<sup>5</sup> ASEAN+3 = 10 ASEAN members plus the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea.

Street Online; World Bank and World Trade Organization. The ARIC website was accessed in over 186 countries in 2012, with an average of 5,600 visits from the top 10 countries—the People’s Republic of China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, the United States, and Viet Nam.

### III. THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

#### A. Impact and Outcome

10. **Impact.** The impact will be the enhanced implementation of existing RCI initiatives and the development of new ones by key stakeholders. The impact will be measured by the number intraregional agreements and other forms of cooperation (such as policy dialogue), as well as the degree of regional integration as evident from indicators of regional cross-border flows.

11. **Outcome.** The outcome will be the increased utilization of ARIC’s RCI-related knowledge products by key stakeholders in Asia and the Pacific.<sup>6</sup> The increased usage will be measured through the number of media citations and interviews; use of its data and information in management speeches and demand from its web-based clients. It is expected that access to the ARIC website will grow in line with the average annual growth of its website statistics for 2006–2012.<sup>7</sup>

#### B. Methodology and Key Activities

12. The TA will produce and disseminate high-quality RCI knowledge products and information to develop the capacity of its stakeholders to promote greater regional integration. For this phase, the knowledge work will focus on complex, second generation RCI issues such as drivers and “derailers” of RCI, infrastructure connectivity and financing, labor mobility and remittances, cooperation between developing countries in Asia, role of the private sector in RCI, and special regional economic zones among others. The goal of the knowledge work is to create and share innovative ideas, policy options, and regional solutions to pressing RCI issues.

13. In step with these aspirations, the TA will produce the following outputs:

- (i) Publication of three issues of the AEIM. In addition to providing updates on RCI progress, the report will feature high-quality thematic chapters on second generation RCI issues. The key RCI indicators in the report will also be made available for downloading online. In addition to East Asia and Southeast Asia, the report will also emphasize the importance of Central and West Asia, South Asia, and the Pacific in the region.
- (ii) Publication of other RCI-related knowledge products, including 15 issues of the RCI information pack, 10 working papers on RCI, and 10 RCI blogs. The RCI information pack will report upcoming events across the four pillars of ADB’s RCI strategy: (i) cross-border infrastructure and related software, (ii) trade and investment, (iii) money and finance, and (iv) regional public goods. It will also track key macro interdependence indicators. The working paper on RCI will

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<sup>6</sup> Key stakeholders comprise staff and officers—particularly from regional departments that are managing RCI initiatives—from ADB, developing member countries, and regional or subregional institutions that work in the area of RCI.

<sup>7</sup> Estimated annual average web statistics are 600,000 page views, 115,000 visits, and 100,000 unique visitors.

analyze important regional integration issues, while RCI blogs will provide short and punchy articles on key RCI lessons.

- (iii) Timely and accurate RCI databases with expanded country coverage to include India, Kazakhstan and Papua New Guinea. Some enhancements will also be made to allow easy downloads of key “takeaway products.”
- (iv) A more informative and updated website to include a customized view for policy makers, researchers, students, media, and civil society. The TA also plans to conduct an extensive user survey to identify the strength and weaknesses of the website. The feedback will be used to further improve the site.
- (v) An RCI roundtable to serve as a venue to discuss and share RCI knowledge and experiences by key stakeholders across the region. Three subregional consultations to disseminate RCI knowledge and gather feedback and lessons from other subregions—particularly Central and West Asia, South Asia and the Pacific—will also be held.
- (vi) Stronger horizontal support to improve RCI knowledge sharing and coordination with regional and other departments in ADB.

14. As global growth remains tepid and unresolved policy issues in advanced economies trigger economic and financial volatility, RCI remains a helpful strategy for the region. RCI can help manage the risks from increased interdependence and at the same time maximize the benefits from open regionalism. ADB is a leader in this area and the TA supports the ADB’s leadership through its three critical functions:

- (i) Serve as a knowledge hub for RCI through its AEIM publication, regional integration and financial vulnerability indicators, and FTA databases. While the more straightforward issues have been addressed in previous ARIC TA projects, this phase will focus its knowledge work on the more difficult second generation RCI issues.
- (ii) Support ADB’s participation in regional and/or global forums, such as dialogue with APEC, ASEAN, ASEAN+3, and Asia–Europe Meeting, among others. A new direction is to go outside of Southeast Asia and work with other regional initiatives and institutions to share the lessons and experiences of Southeast Asia.
- (iii) Provide horizontal support to RCI work of other ADB departments (Regional Departments, Economics and Research Department, and Regional and Sustainable Development Department) and RCI Community of Practice. This TA envisages greater dialogue and consultation to design RCI-related knowledge work that is aligned with ADB priorities and operations.

### **C. Cost and Financing**

15. The TA is estimated to cost \$1,500,000, of which (i) \$500,000 will be financed on a grant basis by the Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund<sup>8</sup> and (ii) \$1,000,000 will be financed on a grant basis by ADB’s Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF-V). The detailed cost estimates and financing plan are in Appendix 2.

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<sup>8</sup> Established by ADB.



## D. Implementation Arrangements

16. ADB will be the executing agency. OREI will implement the TA in consultation with and support from other ADB departments, offices, and communities of practice. The RCI community of practice will serve as an advisory committee for TA implementation. The TA will explore the possibility of collaborating with regional “centers of excellence”—Analytical Centre on Globalization and Regional Cooperation, Asian Institute of Management, Climate Action Network, International Centre of Excellence in Asia-Pacific Studies, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Institute for South Asia Regional Cooperation—to raise the quality of its implementation. The TA will be implemented over 18 months, from December 2013–May 2015.

17. The TA will require 2 international consultants (21 person-months), 20 national consultants (346 person-months), and 7 resource persons (3 person-months). Individual consultants and resource people will be recruited in accordance with ADB’s Guidelines on the Use of Consultants (2013, as amended from time to time). The scope of work and outline terms of reference for the consultants are in Appendix 3.

18. A team of OREI staff (at least three international staff: one of them acting as the project leader, one national officer, and one operational assistant), assisted by an ARIC principal economic analyst (who is a national consultant), will oversee and lead the implementation of the TA. International consultants will be hired under the TA—a regional cooperation economist who will prepare special studies on RCI and assist in ARIC seminars; and an economics and copy editor who will edit ARIC and OREI publications. National consultants will include one principal economic analyst who will assist in the supervision of ARIC’s operations, and coordination and consolidation of its output; four senior economic analysts who will lead the delivery of ARIC’s core services, and 10 economic analysts who will maintain and update the content of the ARIC website and assist in the preparation of ARIC publications and seminars. Other national consultants include one website developer, one multimedia designer and developer, one system and database developer, one typesetter, and one project specialist to provide administrative support. Three person-months will be allotted to engage internationally distinguished experts who will be invited to be resource persons at RCI seminars.

19. Purchases of equipment (computer hardware and software) and statistical databases will be undertaken in accordance with ADB’s Procurement Guidelines (2013, as amended from time to time) and in coordination with ADB’s Office of Information Systems and Technology and Office of Administrative Services. After the TA is completed, all equipment will be disposed of in compliance with Administering Grant-Financed Technical Assistance Projects in the Project Administration Instructions.<sup>9</sup> Disbursement under the TA will be made in accordance with ADB’s *Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook* (2010, as amended from time to time).

## IV. THE PRESIDENT’S DECISION

20. The President, acting under the authority delegated by the Board, has approved the provision of technical assistance not exceeding the equivalent of \$1,500,000 on a grant basis for the Asia Regional Integration Center, Phase V, and hereby reports this action to the Board.

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<sup>9</sup> ADB. 2009. Administering Grant-Financed Technical Assistance Projects. *Project Administration Instructions*. PAI 5.09. Manila.

### DESIGN AND MONITORING FRAMEWORK

Design Summary	Performance Targets and Indicators <sup>a</sup> with Baselines <sup>b</sup>	Data Sources and Reporting Mechanisms	Assumptions and Risks
<p><b>Impact</b></p> <p>Enhanced implementation of existing RCI initiatives and development of new ones by key stakeholders.</p>	<p>By 2018, existing RCI programs and initiatives are implemented by key stakeholders and new ones are developed.</p> <p>By 2018 regional cooperation efforts and regional policy dialogues by key stakeholders contribute to make Asia and the Pacific more integrated</p>	<p>News on intraregional agreements and other forms of cooperation</p> <p>AEIM Indicators on cross-border flows (trade, investment, finance, labor, tourism) and regional initiatives (number of FTAs, subregional programs, and policy dialogues)</p>	<p><b>Assumptions</b></p> <p>RCI remains a key strategy in enhancing economic growth in Asia and the Pacific.</p> <p>Global economic uncertainty and financial volatilities make external demand from advanced economies weak, thereby raising the importance of regional integration.</p> <p><b>Risk</b></p> <p>National policymakers shift their attention toward domestic issues and delay the implementation of RCI initiatives.</p>
<p><b>Outcome</b></p> <p>Increased utilization of ARIC's RCI-related knowledge products by key stakeholders</p>	<p>By project completion:</p> <p>AEIM gets 100 newspaper and publication citations, and 10 broadcast interviews (2012 baseline: 64 citations and 7 broadcast interviews).</p> <p>AEIM data or information is used in 25 Management speeches (2012 baseline: 15)</p> <p>Website use (unique visitors and number of downloads) grows in line with the 2006–2012 average (2012 baseline: 7%)</p>	<p>Department of External Relations monitoring</p> <p>ADB Management speeches</p> <p>ARIC website user statistics and traffic information on the entire site</p>	<p><b>Risk</b></p> <p>Changes in the global or regional economic and political environment undermine the importance of RCI as a development strategy.</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <p>1. Online and print version of the AEIM published.</p>	<p>Three AEIM issues are printed and published online (2012 baseline: 1)</p>	<p>The AEIM publication</p>	<p><b>Assumption</b></p> <p>Staff and consultants have access to current economic data and RCI knowledge.</p> <p><b>Risk</b></p> <p>Other pressing concerns or economic issues undermine the relevance of the AEIM.</p>

Design Summary	Performance Targets and Indicators <sup>a</sup> with Baselines <sup>b</sup>	Data Sources and Reporting Mechanisms	Assumptions and Risks
2. Online and print version of other RCI-related knowledge products—including the RCI information pack and RCI working paper series disseminated.	15 issues of the RCI information pack published online (2012 baseline: 0) 10 RCI working papers published (2012 baseline: 8) 10 macro- or RCI-related blogs and newsletters published (2012 baseline: 0)	Resources in the ARIC website.	<p><b>Assumption</b></p> <p>Staff and consultants have access to data, information, and knowledge on RCI trends and issues.</p> <p><b>Risk</b></p> <p>Other pressing concerns or economic issues undermine the relevance of RCI-related knowledge products.</p>
3. Timely and accurate RCI databases with expanded country coverage.	RCI databases are kept up to date and remain accurate; and country coverage are expanded to include India, Kazakhstan, and PNG	User survey regarding timeliness, relevance and accuracy of RCI databases	<p><b>Assumption</b></p> <p>Data and information are available to track the progress of RCI in Asia and the Pacific.</p>
4. A more informative and updated ARIC website disseminated.	The information in ARIC website are accurate and kept up to date as information becomes available. Key RCI knowledge products are regularly disseminated to the target audience	User survey regarding the accuracy and timeliness ARIC website information Resources in the ARIC Website	<p><b>Assumption</b></p> <p>Data sources and information are readily available to update contents of the ARIC website.</p> <p><b>Risk</b></p> <p>Technical problems could block the access to, or compromise the ARIC website.</p>
5. RCI seminars, roundtable and policy consultations conducted.	One RCI roundtable (attracting 100 participants) organized on RCI benefits to the region (2012 baseline: 1, 100 persons) Three RCI regional consultations (attracting 150 participants) organized across the region (2012 baseline: 2; count the baseline)	Attendance sheets of RCI seminars, roundtable and policy consultations	<p><b>Assumption</b></p> <p>Suitable resource persons are also available.</p> <p><b>Risk</b></p> <p>Other seminars could compete and reduce the value added of these activities</p>
6. A knowledge bridge to link RCI work in ADB.	Technical assistance and analytical support are provided to ADB Management, regional departments, RCI	Feedback from ADB Management, regional departments, RCI Community of	<p><b>Assumption</b></p> <p>OREI remains as the overall coordinator of RCI work in the bank.</p>

Design Summary	Performance Targets and Indicators <sup>a</sup> with Baselines <sup>b</sup>	Data Sources and Reporting Mechanisms	Assumptions and Risks
	<p>community of practice and other ADB staff on RCI.</p> <p>The linkage and knowledge sharing between ARIC and other ADB–RCI-related websites are enhanced.</p>	<p>practice and other ADB staff</p> <p>Cross-posting of materials between ARIC and other ADB–RCI-related websites</p>	
<p><b>Activities with Milestones</b></p> <p>1.1 Provide research and data assistance for the AEIM (Dec 2013–May 2015)</p> <p>1.2 Publish at least three issues of the AEIM in 2014 and 2015</p> <p>2.1 Produce the RCI information pack, working paper series on RCI, and updated country profiles (Dec 2013–May 2015)</p> <p>2.2 Provide data, and research and technical assistance for ADB working paper series on regional economic integration and other ADB staff publications (Dec 2013–May 2015)</p> <p>2.3. Produce new ARIC knowledge products: 12 macro- or RCI-related blogs, and 15 RCI newsletters (Jun 2014–May 2015)</p> <p>3.1 Maintain and update the existing ARIC databases (Dec 2013–May 2015)</p> <p>3.2 Improve and update the RCI indicator system (Dec 2013–May 2015)</p> <p>3.3 Expand the macroeconomic database to cover more economies in Asia and the Pacific and aggregate regional and subregional data (Dec 2014–May 2015)</p> <p>4.1. Maintain, update, and improve the ARIC website (Dec 2013–May 2015)</p> <p>4.2. Improve the dissemination of RCI-related products using platforms such as newsletters and blogs and maximizing the use of social media networks (Mar 2014–May 2015)</p> <p>4.3. Conduct an ARIC user survey (Jan–May 2015)</p> <p>5.1. Organize one RCI roundtable (Oct 2014)</p> <p>5.2 Conduct three RCI consultations (Jun 2014–May 2015)</p> <p>5.3 Assist the ADB seminar series on regional economic integration (Dec 2013–May 2015)</p> <p>6.1. Create greater links with other websites (Dec 2013–May 2015)</p> <p>6.2 Promote the ARIC website through direct and electronic (Twitter) channels (Dec 2013–May 2015)</p> <p>6.3 Continue to use podcast, live streaming, alerts, and webinar to disseminate ARIC contents (Dec 2013–May 2015)</p> <p>6.4. Provide technical and analytical support to Management on RCI-related issues (Dec 2013–May 2015)</p> <p>6.5 Collect and collate feedback from key stakeholders (Jan–May 2015)</p>		<p><b>Inputs</b></p> <p><b>Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF-V): \$1,000,000</b></p> <p><b>Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund: \$500,000</b></p> <p>Analytical inputs from ADB staff</p> <p>Consulting services: 21 person-months (international); 346 person-months (national); 3 person-months (resource person engagement including travel): \$1,110,000</p> <p>Database, equipment, and computer software: \$100,000</p> <p>Seminars and meetings: \$120,000</p> <p>User survey and feedback: \$30,000</p> <p>Miscellaneous administration and marketing support, including supplies and publication: \$40,000</p> <p>Contingencies: \$100,000</p>	

ADB = Asian Development Bank, AEIM = Asian Economic Integration Monitor, ARIC = Asia Regional Integration Center, OREI = Office of Regional Economic Integration, RCI = regional cooperation and integration.

<sup>a</sup> By the end of the program unless otherwise noted.

<sup>b</sup> 2012 baseline is none unless otherwise noted.

Source: Asian Development Bank.

**COST ESTIMATES AND FINANCING PLAN**  
(\$'000)

Item	Amount
<b>A. Asian Development Bank<sup>a</sup></b>	
1. Consultants	740.00
a. Remuneration and per diem	
i. International consultants	173.33
ii. National consultants	520.00
iii. Resource persons	20.00
b. International and local travel	26.67
2. Equipment <sup>b</sup>	66.67
3. Training, seminars, and conferences	80.00
4. Surveys	20.00
5. Miscellaneous administration and support costs	26.67
6. Contingencies	66.66
<b>Subtotal (A)</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>
<b>B. Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund<sup>c</sup></b>	
1. Consultants	370.00
a. Remuneration and per diem	
i. International consultants	86.67
ii. National consultants	260.00
iii. Resource persons	10.00
b. International and local travel	13.33
2. Equipment <sup>b</sup>	33.33
3. Training, seminars, and conferences	40.00
4. Surveys	10.00
5. Miscellaneous administration and support costs	13.33
6. Contingencies	33.34
<b>Subtotal (B)</b>	<b>500.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,500.00</b>

<sup>a</sup> Financed by the Asian Development Bank's Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF-V).

<sup>b</sup> Equipment to be purchased includes computers, software, and others; database subscriptions including Roubini Global Economics, CEIC Data Company, Reuters 3000 Xtra, Haver Analytics, and Datastream.

<sup>c</sup> Established by the Asian Development Bank.

Source: Asian Development Bank estimates.

## OUTLINE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANTS

1. **Regional cooperation economist** (1 position, international, 6 person-months). The economist will be familiar with trade, macroeconomics, finance, regional cooperation and development issues in Asia and the Pacific. The economist will report to Asian Development Bank (ADB) staff and, under the supervision of ADB staff, will
  - (i) prepare special studies on agreed topics related to regional cooperation and integration (RCI) and revise and finalize the study findings based on comments from ADB staff and other consultants; and
  - (ii) draft and edit economic and other reports.
  
2. Outputs will include written reports and presentations on special studies regarding RCI issues.
  
3. **Economics and copy editor** (1 position, international, 15 person-months). The editor should be familiar with economic and development issues in Asia and the Pacific, and have strong communication skills. The editor will report to the ADB staff. Under the supervision of ADB staff, the editor will
  - (i) edit contents of the Asia Regional Integration Center (ARIC) website, the Asian Economic Integration Monitor (AEIM), ADB working papers on regional economic integration, management statements, press releases, and technical documents;
  - (ii) examine economic arguments in documents to assess whether they are logical and are based on accepted economic theory and principles, and revise them if necessary;
  - (iii) examine and edit the tables and figures in the documents to ensure data consistency; and
  - (iv) ensure that documents adhere to ADB style and usage and conform to high publication standards.
  
4. Outputs will include edited content of the ARIC website, management statements, press releases, Office of Regional Economic Integration (OREI) publications and technical documents; and written notices to OREI paper authors regarding comments on substance and logic of arguments and adherence to ADB style and usage.
  
5. **Principal economic analyst** (1 position, national, 18 person-months). The analyst will have sufficient managerial capabilities to perform supervisory tasks; extensive knowledge of economic and policy issues in the region; adequate background on database development and management; strong proficiency in data processing and analysis; familiarity with computer applications used in economic analysis; and commendable communication skills. The analyst will be working on a daily basis at the ADB headquarters and will report to the project leader and/or other technical assistance (TA) members. Under the supervision of the project leader and/or other TA members, the principal economic analyst will
  - (i) coordinates with other TA members in the absence of the project leader;
  - (ii) assist in the management of the daily operations of the ARIC website;
  - (iii) help the project leader and/or other TA members implement the ARIC work plan;
  - (iv) assist in the supervision of technical work done by ARIC team members;
  - (v) support the project leader and/or other TA members in the preparation of management reports related to ARIC;
  - (vi) liaise with ADB departments and other stakeholders on ARIC-related matters;
  - (vii) provide research support in the preparation of the AEIM by providing country notes and data assistance;

- (viii) assist in capacity building exercises for policymakers in the region;
- (ix) execute data and research requests from OREI management and ADB staff; and
- (x) provide other technical support as may be requested by the project leader and/or other TA members.

6. **Senior economic analysts** (four positions, national, 72 person-months). The analysts will undertake a management role and supervisory task to lead the delivery of ARIC's core services: (i) website and databases, (ii) regional economic monitoring, and (iii) research and modeling. They will also have technical knowledge in terms of information technology (IT) and programming, economic and policy issues, and economic modeling. The analysts will be working on a daily basis at the ADB headquarters and will report to the principal economic analyst, project leader, and/or other TA members. Under the supervision of the project leader and/or other TA members, the analysts will

- (i) assist in the delivery of output under ARIC's core services;
- (ii) review the work done by ARIC team members;
- (iii) lead the preparation of RCI-related knowledge products;
- (iv) lead the preparation of the AEIM and other OREI publications;
- (v) lead the preparation of macroeconomic and financial monitoring reports (daily and weekly);
- (vi) prepare macroeconomic reports on assigned Asian economies as inputs to OREI policy reports and publications;
- (vii) provide data and editorial assistance to OREI working paper series and other OREI publications;
- (viii) provide logistical and coordination support to OREI seminar series, website promotion, and other activities requested by ADB staff;
- (ix) assist in capacity building exercises for policymakers in the region; and
- (x) provide other research and general administrative support as may be requested by the project leader and/or other TA members.

7. **Economic analysts** (10 positions, national, 180 person-months). The analysts will help the ADB staff operate the ARIC website, develop and update indicators, provide data assistance, and prepare the AEIM. The analysts, each engaged for 18 person-months, will have extensive experience in economic, social, and financial data processing and analysis; be familiar with issues concerning regional cooperation and integration; have strong communication skills; and be proficient in using standard computer applications software. The analysts will be working on a daily basis at the ADB headquarters and will report to the principal economic analyst, project leader, and/or other TA members. Under the supervision of the project leader and/or other TA members, the analysts will

- (i) maintain, develop, and contribute to the enhancement of the following sections of the website:
  - (a) RCI pillars (money and finance, trade and investment, infrastructure and software, regional public goods);
  - (b) RCI integration indicators and databases;
  - (c) economic and financial indicators; and
  - (d) other sections as may be required;
- (ii) support the operations and development of the ARIC website;
- (iii) assist in conceptualizing website design and front-end user tools and preparing requirements for content management systems;
- (iv) prepare RCI-related knowledge products (including RCI digest and country profiles on RCI indicators);
- (v) assist in the preparation of the AEIM and other OREI publications;

- (vi) prepare macroeconomic and financial monitoring reports (daily and weekly);
- (vii) prepare macroeconomic reports on assigned Asian economies as inputs to OREI policy reports and publications;
- (viii) provide data and editorial assistance to OREI working paper series and other OREI publications;
- (ix) provide logistical and coordination support to OREI seminar series, website promotion and other activities as requested by ADB staff;
- (x) assist in capacity building exercises for policymakers in the region; and
- (xi) provide other research and general administrative support as may be requested by the project leader and/or other TA members.

8. **Website developer** (1 position, national, 18 person-months). The website developer will help the project leader and/or other TA members expand, improve, and operate the ARIC website, and OREI website. The website developer will be working on a daily basis at the ADB headquarters and will report to the principal economic analyst, project leader, and/or other TA members. Under the supervision of the project leader and/or other TA members, the website developer will

- (i) design and develop navigational tools using state-of-the-art technologies to improve user access across various content areas of the website;
- (ii) build and maintain efficient content management systems to track and manage content, including text and graphics published on the website;
- (iii) build highly interactive interfaces, geo-data mapper and charting components for the macroeconomic and financial indicators database, integration indicators database, and comparative toolkit for free trade agreement (FTA) database;
- (iv) develop a multimedia facility to manage image galleries, podcasts, and video feeds;
- (v) implement a tracking system to track website statistics on user hits and visits;
- (vi) conceptualize and execute designs for new uploads; and suggest modifications in page design;
- (vii) analyze program specifications, design, and implement programs to generate links and web pages, and test and debug the programs;
- (viii) maintain or modify programs to revise and update the content of the new website;
- (ix) develop new concepts to simplify website updating procedures;
- (x) update and check the entire database for errors; and manage the file structure of the entire website;
- (xi) post daily updates on the development, and global websites;
- (xii) prepare technical documentation for the designed website;
- (xiii) conceptualize and develop CD brochures and portable database applications;
- (xiv) conduct usability testing to evaluate and measure the website's ease of use; and
- (xv) provide other IT support as may be requested by the project leader and/or other TA members.

9. **Multimedia designer and developer** (1 position, national, 18 person-months). The multimedia designer and developer will help the project leader and/or other TA members expand, improve, and operate the ARIC website by undertaking graphic design work of the web contents and subsites to be created. The expert will be working on a daily basis at the ADB headquarters and will report to the principal economic analyst, project leader and/or other TA members. Under the supervision of the project leader and/or other TA members, the multimedia designer and developer will

- (i) conceptualize designs and develop front-end templates for websites and subsites;
- (ii) manage and update static contents for the ARIC website and related subsites;



- (iii) conceptualize and execute specified design including icons and thumbnails of new web pages and additional subsites;
- (iv) carry out other tasks related to web graphical design as assigned by ADB staff;
- (v) provide ARIC support on site uploads and editing support for all ARIC online or publication materials;
- (vi) conceptualize and implement designs for ARIC and OREI promotional materials;
- (vii) provide layout services to various ARIC documents and OREI publications;
- (viii) coordinate with relevant departments to ensure graphic design work of the website is consistent with design guidelines followed in ADB;
- (ix) provide photography and video production support, edit video materials, convert files to various formats, produce CD/DVD materials, prepare cover design, and assist in reproduction requests;
- (x) assist in ARIC local events; and
- (xi) provide other publication support as may be requested by the project leader and/or other TA members.

10. **System and database developer** (1 position, national, 18 person-months). The system and database developer will help the project leader and/or other TA members expand, improve, and operate the ARIC website. The system and database developer will be working on a daily basis at the ADB headquarters and will report to the principal economic analyst, project leader and/or other TA members as may be directed. Under the supervision of the project leader and/or other TA members, the system and database developer will

- (i) improve the content management system for the macroeconomic and financial indicators database, which include: generating new html and excel outputs needed for reports and website uploads; and adding new functions in the front-end website interface of the user-defined section of the database;
- (ii) revise the content management system for the regional integration indicators database, which include: adding new functions to facilitate inputs of various types of data sets; and creating new outputs needed for website uploads and researches;
- (iii) maintain and upgrade the FTA database content management system, which includes: adding a user-defined interface and merging the FTA database with other database systems of the website;
- (iv) assist in the supervision of database-related collaboration projects with other ADB departments and external stakeholders, which includes: scoping of data requirements and assisting in the conceptualization of IT plan and framework;
- (v) conceptualize, design, and implement other database-related system requirements for the website, particularly for new content as may be determined by the ARIC team;
- (vi) design and implement front-end web tools to enhance website functionality and presentation;
- (vii) revise, enhance, and optimize database and content management systems for the ARIC macro database, RCI and FTA database, and new content databases as may be determined by the ARIC team;
- (viii) prepare technical documentation for implemented database and content management systems;
- (ix) conduct and oversee usability testing for the ARIC website; and
- (x) provide other IT support as may be requested by the project leader and/or other TA members.

11. **Typesetter** (1 position, national, 4 person-months). The typesetter will lay out the reports (at least three issues of the AEIM) to be published and convert the files into the required format for print and/or online publication. The typesetter will be working on a daily basis at the ADB headquarters and will report to the principal economic analyst and project leader. In consultation with and under the guidance of the project leader and/or other TA members, the typesetter will

- (i) design the AEIM cover, lay out the text, tables, and charts of the AEIM in Adobe InDesign CS2 and Adobe Illustrator CS2; incorporate revisions to the text, tables, and charts; and
- (ii) convert the Adobe files into PDF files for online and print publication.

12. **Project specialist** (1 position, national, 18 person-months). The specialist will be working on a daily basis at the ADB headquarters and will report to the principal economic analyst, project leader and/or other TA members. Under the supervision of the project leader and/or other TA members, the specialist will

- (i) coordinate the ARIC teams' schedules and arrange appointments, meetings, mission travels, and accommodations;
- (ii) assist the team members with all the logistical arrangements for meetings, conferences, and workshops, where relevant, and manage all administrative procedures and request forms;
- (iii) assist in maintaining and organizing the ARIC files comprising reports, computer files, and other relevant documents;
- (iv) manage the databases on contacts and assist in maintaining online databases;
- (v) assist in collecting and formatting data; and references from the Internet and online data sources;
- (vi) construct and organize the monthly economic calendar for use of ARIC's economic analysts;
- (vii) monitor and prepare reports on ARIC business procedures and systems, including staff attendance and leave plans;
- (viii) serve as the supply custodian for the ARIC team;
- (ix) assist in proofreading, editing, and reformatting of OREI's working paper series on RCI;
- (x) provide secretarial support and assistance if and when necessary; and
- (xi) undertake other functions as may be assigned by the project leader and/or other TA members.

13. **Resource persons** (3 person-months). Resource persons will be engaged to make presentations at seminar series on RCI. These consultants will be internationally distinguished experts on the four pillars of RCI, specializing on regional cooperation and integration issues, or policymakers who are considered prime movers of Asian integration. The resource persons will

- (i) conduct presentations on the topics assigned to them; and
- (ii) moderate and facilitate discussion and exchanges of ideas among the participants, as well as with other resource persons.