



Regional: Roundtable Conference: Future Asian Regional Cooperation and Integration Agenda

Project Name	Roundtable Conference: Future Asian Regional Cooperation and Integration Agenda	
Project Number	48130-001	
Country	Regional	
Project Status	Active	
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance	
Source of Funding / Amount	TA 8704-REG: Roundtable Conference: Future Asian Regional Cooperation and Integration Agenda Technical Assistance Special Fund US\$ 1.00 million	
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth Regional integration	
Drivers of Change	Knowledge solutions Partnerships Private sector development	
Sector / Subsector	Finance - Money and capital markets Industry and trade - Trade and services Public sector management - Economic affairs management	
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	No gender elements	
Description	<p>This technical assistance (TA) aims to define a second generation RCI agenda related to trade and investment (pillar 2 of the RCI Strategy) and productivity and promote this among key stakeholders. The TA will have three key outputs: (i) Analytical studies on special economic zones and production networks; small and medium size enterprises and production networks; trade facilitation; trade and supply chain financing; trade logistics; and regional institutions and financing mechanisms; (ii) Knowledge events including a Roundtable Conference to be held in November 2014; workshops to discuss initial findings; and dissemination events to present the key findings of the research work; and (iii) Knowledge products, including a book containing the analytical studies and working papers.</p>	
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>In 2014, after almost a decade has passed since the approval of the RCI strategy and more than 5 years since the adoption of ADB's Strategy 2020, the region is faced with a rapidly changing global economic environment characterized by the tapering of the United States' quantitative easing, the threatening rise in global interest rates, volatile foreign direct investment flows as a result of advanced economies' recovery, the economic slowdown of the People's Republic of China (PRC), and the changing role of Japan's production networks. This has repercussions on the region by making the environment for traditional _Factory Asia_ exports more difficult and potentially hurting traditional intermediate goods trade in Asia.</p> <p>To further analyze the changing global economic trends in the context of ADB's efforts to implement its Strategy 2020, ADB has conducted a midterm review of the strategy. Included in the findings of the midterm review is the need to focus attention on the path that RCI has to take on structural reforms, over and above national efforts, to counter slowing productivity growth, reduce inequality, and mitigate vulnerability risks in the region. Given the complexities of the productivity, inequality, and vulnerability issues in the context of RCI, as discussed in the midterm review, special attention must be given to each issue on a sequential basis rather than to all three at once. The focus for 2014 will be on productivity. Two other RCI drivers - _inequalities and vulnerabilities_ - would be addressed in 2015 and 2016, respectively.</p> <p>This TA aims to implement the part of the recommendations of ADB's midterm review on second generation RCI that focuses on the recent slowdown in productivity growth globally and regionally with its scope narrowed down to pillar 2 of the RCI strategy (trade and investment). Through knowledge and understanding of the key issues surrounding the next phase of the RCI strategy for trade and investment and, subsequently, applying this within the context of the developing member countries (DMCs), the TA will help strengthen ADB's role as a catalyst and coordinator of RCI for DMCs.</p>	

Impact	Second-generation RCI policies and recommendations (trade- and productivity-driven growth) implemented in ADB DMCs
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Project Outcome

Description of Outcome	Second-generation RCI agenda (focused on trade- and investment-driven productivity) supported by DMCs and other stakeholders
Progress Toward Outcome	At the Asian RCI Roundtable Conference: The Future of RCI and Productivity organized at the ADB headquarters on 17-18 November 2014, about 170 DMC government officials and representatives of the private sector, think tanks, ADB, and other multilateral and bilateral agencies gathered to discuss elements of the future RCI agenda identified through the TA research findings. The TA also supported extensive consultation with DMCs under the subregional programs (CAREC, BIMP-EAGA, GMS and Pacific Islands Forum), where ADB clients' views and suggestions on priorities of future RCI engagement were collected and incorporated in the RCI Operational Plan (RCI-OP) approved on 8 September 2016.

Implementation Progress

Description of Project Outputs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analytical studies on the following topics conducted: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Special economic zones and production networks b. Small and medium-sized enterprises and production networks c. Trade facilitation and trade agreements d. Trade and supply chain financing e. Trade logistics f. Regional institutions and financing mechanisms 2. Knowledge events highlighting the second-generation RCI agenda focused on enhancing productivity through trade and investment cooperation and integration conducted 3. Knowledge products presenting the second-generation RCI agenda published and disseminated
Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)	<p>Six research papers have been completed: (i) stylized facts on productivity growth; (ii) boosting productivity in fragile and landlocked states; (iii) role of regional financing mechanisms in driving productivity growth; (iv) how RCI can help middle-income and high-income Asian countries; (v) economic zones as instruments for regional production networks and supply chains; and (vi) opportunities and challenges for enhanced connectivity between South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia, and beyond. These papers were presented at the Asian RCI Roundtable Conference: The Future of RCI and Productivity organized at the ADB headquarters on 17-18 November 2014 (please see outcome section)</p> <p>In addition, the TA has supported analytical work on future RCI opportunities related to the proposed three operational directions in the RCI-OP, namely (i) strengthening connectivity between economies, (ii) raising competitiveness in connected markets, and (iii) investing in regional public goods and collective action. Such work provided sound analysis on the RCI challenges and needs of ADB's DMCs in advancing the RCI agenda, and stronger justification for the three operational directions to scale up and strengthen ADB's future RCI operations. The analysis also incorporated recommendations by IED's thematic evaluation study on ADB's RCI work. The TA also supported extensive consultation with DMCs under the subregional programs (please see outcome section).</p>

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	<p>The TA will require about 15 person-months of international (individual) and 30 person-months of national (individual) consulting services. The international sector specialists will provide technical and analytical support to ADB focal persons in drafting and finalizing the analytical studies and undertake surveys related to the studies. Another international consultant will be the economics editor. The national consultants will assist in the development of analytical studies, conduct of knowledge events, and publication of knowledge products: one research associate to provide research support to the TA team and one project coordinator to assist in supervising and coordinating the delivery of TA outputs as well as provide administrative support to the TA. Survey experts (firms) may be engaged for the preparation of some of the analytical studies under least cost selection. During implementation, additional consulting inputs were identified and included in the requests for minor change in scope.</p>
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Procurement Purchases of equipment and statistical databases may be undertaken as needed.

Responsible Staff

Responsible ADB Officer	Hu, Xinglan
Responsible ADB Department	Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department
Responsible ADB Division	Office of the Chief Economist, ERD
Executing Agencies	<i>Asian Development Bank 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550, Philippines</i>

Timetable

Concept Clearance	14 May 2014
Fact Finding	03 Feb 2014 to 22 May 2014
MRM	-
Approval	25 Aug 2014
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	30 Sep 2016

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Milestones					
Approval	Signing Date	Effectivity Date	Closing		
			Original	Revised	Actual
25 Aug 2014	-	25 Aug 2014	31 Dec 2015	30 Sep 2017	-

Financing Plan/TA Utilization						Cumulative Disbursements		
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
1,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000,000.00	25 Aug 2014	642,205.02

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