



Technical Assistance Report

Project Number: 48130-001
Research and Development Technical Assistance (RDTA)
August 2014

Roundtable Conference: Future Asian Regional Cooperation and Integration Agenda

This document is being disclosed to the public in accordance with ADB's Public Communications Policy 2011.

Asian Development Bank

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
CoP	–	community of practice
DMC	–	developing member country
FCAS	–	fragile and conflict-affected state
LLDC	–	landlocked developing country
MIC	–	middle-income country
OREI	–	Office of Regional Economic Integration
PRC	–	People's Republic of China
RCI	–	regional cooperation and integration
SME	–	small and medium-sized enterprise
TA	–	technical assistance

NOTE

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

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RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AT A GLANCE

1. Basic Data		Project Number: 48130-001	
Project Name	Roundtable Conference: Future Asian Regional Cooperation and Integration Agenda	Department /Division	OREI/OREF
Country Borrower	REG None	Executing Agency	Asian Development Bank
2. Sector		Subsector(s)	
✓ Industry and trade	Trade and services	ADB Financing (\$ million)	
Finance	Money and capital markets	0.50	
Public sector management	Economic affairs management	0.25	
		Total	
		1.00	
3. Strategic Agenda		Subcomponents	
Inclusive economic growth (IEG)	Pillar 1: Economic opportunities, including jobs, created and expanded	Climate Change Information	
Regional integration (RCI)	Pillar 1: Cross-border infrastructure Pillar 2: Trade and investments Pillar 3: Money and finance Pillar 4: Other regional public goods	Climate Change impact on the Project	Low
4. Drivers of Change		Components	
Knowledge solutions (KNS)	Application and use of new knowledge solutions in key operational areas	Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	
Partnerships (PAR)	Knowledge sharing activities Implementation	No gender elements (NGE)	✓
Private sector development (PSD)	Regional organizations Promotion of private sector investment		
5. Poverty Targeting		Location Impact	
Project directly targets poverty	No	Regional	High
6. TA Category:		B	
7. Safeguard Categorization Not Applicable			
8. Financing			
Modality and Sources		Amount (\$ million)	
ADB		1.00	
Sovereign Research and development technical assistance: Technical Assistance Special Fund		1.00	
Cofinancing		0.00	
None		0.00	
Counterpart		0.00	
None		0.00	
Total		1.00	
9. Effective Development Cooperation			
Use of country procurement systems	No		
Use of country public financial management systems	No		

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Agreement Establishing the Asian Development Bank (ADB) recognized the importance of regional cooperation and integration (RCI), with member countries defining ADB's purpose as a regional bank that will “foster economic growth and cooperation in the region”.¹ Building on this, in 1994, ADB officially adopted a regional cooperation policy, which gave strong support to regional and subregional cooperation programs. ADB saw the need to revisit its fragmented RCI efforts—mainly in combating poverty in the region—and came up with a more coherent and strategically focused approach to RCI issues concerning cross-border infrastructure and related software, trade and investment, monetary and financial cooperation, and regional public goods. This led to the adoption of the RCI strategy in 2006.² Subsequently, ADB's Strategy 2020 recognized RCI as a strategic agenda to reduce poverty in the region.³

2. 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 substantially changed state of economic integration in financial, trade, and labor markets. While there has been volatility in portfolio flows and retrenchment of European bank lending following the Eurozone crisis, Asian financial markets have been characterized by greater intraregional foreign direct investment and rising cross-border flows of financial assets, including equity, bonds, and banking flows. However, these cross-border financial flows need to be strengthened through further regional financial architecture. Global trade has been slowing, while at the same time, trade integration has strengthened, as reflected in the rising growth of intraregional trade over extraregional and subregional trade. Finally, labor movement poses another challenge. The levels of skilled and unskilled labor mobility within the region has remained uncertain notwithstanding the increasing need for it due to demographic variances between Asian DMCs and a slowing demographic dividend. Given the above, a new approach may need to be explored—where regional cooperation goes beyond identifying connectivity gaps to supporting productivity and inclusive growth initiatives through structural reforms by Asian DMCs that go beyond national actions.

3. In 2014, ADB conducted a Midterm Review of Strategy 2020, which took due account of changing global and economic trends affecting the role of RCI in Asia.⁴ Included in the findings of the midterm review was the need to focus 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 nexus in the context of RCI, special attention must be given to each issue on a sequential yet interdependent basis rather than to all three at once.

4. The technical assistance (TA) aims to implement the midterm review recommendation on second-generation RCI to address the recent slowdown in productivity growth globally and regionally with its scope primarily narrowed down to pillar 2 of the RCI strategy (trade and investment).⁵ 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

¹ ADB. 1966. *Agreement Establishing the Asian Development Bank*. Manila (Chapter 1, Article 1).

² ADB. 2006. *Regional Cooperation and Integration Strategy*. Manila.

³ ADB. 2008. *Strategy 2020: The Long-Term Strategic Framework of the Asian Development Bank, 2008–2020*. Manila.

⁴ ADB. 2014. *Midterm Review of Strategy 2020: Meeting the Challenges of a Transforming Asia and Pacific*. Manila.

⁵ The TA intends to define second-generation RCI in terms of appropriate projects, policies, and/or approaches. The focus for this TA will be on productivity. Two other RCI drivers: (i) inequalities, will be addressed in 2015, and (ii) vulnerabilities, will be addressed in 2016.

context of the developing member countries (DMCs), the TA will provide the DMCs a range of RCI-related policy, project, and program options to enhance productivity based on in-depth research surveys and analyses and help strengthen ADB's role as a catalyst and coordinator of RCI for DMCs. The design and monitoring framework is in Appendix 1.⁶

II. ISSUES

5. Compared to other parts of the world, Asia's growth in the past has been driven by productivity, not just capital and labor accumulation. This has strengthened the region's economic foundation and resilience, and resulted in significant poverty reduction gains. But signs have emerged that productivity growth has decelerated since early 2000s, implying that the growth has been driven more by capital and labor accumulation. At the same time, the growth pattern in most Asian DMCs has been far from inclusive. How to reverse the trend to return to productivity-driven growth while not exacerbating inequality is a major challenge for the region. To prevent gains in poverty reduction from being eroded and the middle-income country (MIC) trap from decelerating productivity, the productivity impacts of moving from primary to manufacturing to the services sector in each DMC will need to be examined.

6. External conditions are unlikely to be as benign given the changing nature of global financial markets and shifting demand patterns of trade. Consequently, deployment of policies that would enable structural transformation for productivity growth will be harder. For low-income DMCs and fragile and conflict-affected states (FCAS), finding new ways of addressing "fundamentals" such as skills, education, health, institutions, and macroeconomic stability is important. For middle-income DMCs, it requires structural transformation (i.e., developing new higher-productivity industries and transferring labor from traditional or lower productivity ones), which is not easy, and the suggested policies may be in tension with the "fundamentals."

7. Against this background, RCI has great potential to alleviate such productivity growth concerns if it complements infrastructure connectivity by: (i) raising productivity through tradable goods, focusing limited resources on clusters and production networks for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); (ii) generating cross-border finance to alleviate supply-side infrastructure constraints (e.g., access to trade finance for SMEs) and mitigating disaster risks to supply chains; (iii) forging software connectivity through institutional reforms, especially on non-tariff barriers and logistics to boost productivity following the exploitation of lower hanging tariff reductions; (iv) forging of national social security to be portable and national education for mutual recognition of skills; and (v) enhancing regional financial safety nets to help underpin macroeconomic stability in the face of global or regional contagion risks and spillovers.

8. It is necessary to examine three particular overarching RCI instruments at the project, program, and financing levels and their applicability to enhancing productivity for different types of Asian DMCs. First, the possible use of special economic zones as a tool to reap the benefits of trade-driven productivity should be examined. Second, how to respond to (i) the rise of the PRC with its increasingly important role in trade, (ii) the rise of India with its "Look East" policy, (iii) the increasing importance of large private sector logistics companies, and (iv) the efforts of ASEAN to integrate further—all of these potentially lead to new groupings and institutions at the regional cooperation program and financing level. Finally, the role of regional financing mechanisms in enhancing productivity will require special examination given the different types of mechanisms (for infrastructure, SME financing, and disaster risk financing) and the demand- and supply-side constraints affecting each.

⁶ The TA first appeared in the business opportunities section of ADB's website on 26 June 2014.

III. THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A. Impact and Outcome

9. The impact will be for DMCs to formulate, adopt, and implement regional policies, projects, and programs that support the second-generation RCI agenda by focusing on productivity enhancement through regional cooperation and integration in the region.⁷ The outcome will be increased support for second-generation RCI agenda focused primarily on trade- and investment-driven productivity by ADB's DMCs and other stakeholders. Inequality arising from productivity enhancement will be reviewed, and mitigation methods will be considered.

B. Methodology and Key Activities

10. The TA will have three key outputs:

11. **Output 1: Analytical studies on key RCI topics produced.** In an attempt to define and discuss issues associated with second-generation RCI on trade and investment driven productivity, the TA will review and synthesize and where necessary supplement inter regional, subregional, and country analyses.⁸ Six analytical studies (RCI and Productivity, RCI and MICs, RCI and FCAS/landlocked developing countries or LLDCs, Special Economic Zones, Inter Subregional Cooperation, and Regional Financing Mechanisms) will draw on research work on (i) the role of special economic zones; (ii) SMEs and production networks; (iii) trade finance, and the extent to which it is working; and (iv) trade facilitation (which needs a bigger push). The countries to be included in the special economic zone study are Bangladesh, Cambodia, the PRC (Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region), Kazakhstan, and Myanmar.⁹ The SME study will include the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Kazakhstan, and Timor-Leste. Trade facilitation will include the programs of Greater Mekong Subregion, Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation, and South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation. Trade finance survey work will be region wide. To avoid duplication and utilize lessons from past RCI analyses, the TA will draw on and consolidate previous work of ADB, including (i) regional integration analysis conducted by ADB's Office of Regional Economic Integration (OREI), Economics and Research Department, and Regional and Sustainable Development Department; (ii) the midterm review of Strategy 2020 conducted by ADB's Strategy and Policy Department (footnote 4) (iii) stocktaking of subregional programs¹⁰ by OREI, regional departments, and Private Sector Operations Department; and (iv) the ongoing evaluation of ADB RCI efforts by ADB's Independent Evaluation Department. The research work produced under this TA will form part of the background papers to be presented during the roundtable conference.

⁷ OREI, which is responsible for implementing the TA, intends to share the TA's analytical results through (i) the conference itself and on the sidelines of the conference, (ii) subsequent dissemination workshops in the first quarter of 2015, (iii) an ADB Annual Meeting seminar and publication in May 2015, and (iv) translation of the conference findings into an operational plan (Phase 1) for the RCI strategy by mid-2015,

⁸ An important part of the study's objectives would be to generate baseline and target values for the key indicators of second-generation RCI.

⁹ The basket of countries in Asia included in the study is representative of FCAS and LLDCs, low-income countries, and different levels of MICs, with a wide scope of geographic location and levels of economic development and income. Pacific countries, which would be discussed separately, are excluded from the sample.

¹⁰ Regional and subregional cooperation programs which ADB supports include the following: in South Asia, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, and the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Program; in East Asia and Central Asia, the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program and the Economic Cooperation Organization; in Southeast Asia, the Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Philippines–East ASEAN Growth Area and the Greater Mekong Subregion program; and in the Pacific, priority programs under the Pacific Plan.

12. **Output 2: Understanding of key stakeholders of future RCI agenda improved.** The roundtable conference, to be held in November 2014 at the ADB headquarters, will be the main knowledge event to be held under this TA.¹¹ Experts and resource persons, high-level government officials and other representatives from DMCs, development partners, representatives from the private sector and academia, and ADB staff will be invited to discuss and share their insights on issues, and on how to define a second-generation RCI agenda focused on productivity enhancement.¹² Workshops will also be held to present, discuss, and disseminate the key findings of the research work.¹³

13. **Output 3: Seminal knowledge work on second-generation RCI published and disseminated.** A book containing the analytical studies and discussions during the conference will be published in time for the 2015 ADB Annual Meeting. The analytical studies may also be published as an ADB monograph on RCI. Overall, the knowledge products produced under this TA will define the second-generation RCI agenda to deal with the region's productivity issues.¹⁴ It will also provide input into the first phase of the RCI Operational Plan in 2015. In so doing output 3 is designed to meet the midterm Action Plan objectives of flagship knowledge publications and RCI operational planning.

C. Cost and Financing

14. The TA is estimated to cost \$1 million, which will be financed on a grant basis by ADB's Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF-V). The TA will finance international and national consultants, resource persons, surveys, logistics and other conference-related costs, publication of the papers, and miscellaneous administration and support costs. The cost estimates and financing plan are in Appendix 2.

D. Implementation Arrangements

15. ADB will be the executing agency. OREI will implement the TA in close collaboration and consultation with ADB's regional and knowledge departments, Private Sector Operations Department, Department of External Relations, RCI community of practice (CoP) and other relevant CoPs, and ADB Institute. Moreover, during TA implementation, partnership with a center of excellence such as the Asian Productivity Organization will be explored. While OREI will be responsible for organizing the RCI roundtable conference, the RCI CoP will regularly review logistics and administrative arrangements and analytical work outputs to ensure ADB-wide collective effort. The TA will be implemented over 17 months, from August 2014 to December 2015.

¹¹ The November 2014 roundtable conference on second-generation RCI would be, in numerous ways, the logical continuation of the Conference on Regional Cooperation and Integration—Experiences in Asia and the Pacific held in Kunming, PRC on 26–27 March 2012. The Kunming conference, for instance, talked of “taking RCI on a new plane” and recommended to “support private sector efforts related to production networks.”

¹² At least 150 selected high-level DMC officials and representatives from the private sector, think tanks, and development partners are expected to attend the Asian RCI roundtable conference. The TA will consider funding attendance of participants from DMCs. ADB's regional departments will be consulted on which countries to invite to the conference.

¹³ At least two in-country dissemination workshops will be organized by November 2015.

¹⁴ The second-generation RCI agenda and the operational plan will be derived from a process of consultations through dissemination workshops, discussions at the conference, and other forums, such that it would be a synthesis of the aspirations, necessities, and constraints of DMCs, think-tank experts, and other stakeholders, including ADB itself.

16. OREI staff will be assigned to lead each of the six analytical studies (referred to in para. 11) which will form the background papers for the roundtable conference. The leaders will closely coordinate and work with relevant departments in finalizing the research outputs. The project team leader and other ADB staff will contribute to the development of the analytical studies and research or act as resource persons during the roundtable conference.

17. The TA will require about 11 person-months of international (individual) and 24 person-months of national (individual) consulting services. The international sector specialists will provide technical and analytical support to OREI leaders in drafting and finalizing the analytical studies, and undertake surveys related to the studies. Another international consultant will be the economics editor who will review and edit the knowledge products. 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 the TA outputs, as well as provide administrative support to the TA, including organizing TA activities. Survey experts (firms) may be engaged for the preparation of some of the analytical studies under least-cost selection. The TA will also require 3 person-months of resource persons who will review draft papers and be invited to participate during the roundtable conference and/or in-country dissemination workshops as speakers or discussants. The outline terms of reference for consultants are in Appendix 3. An events coordinator, copyeditor, and typesetter for graphics, design, and publication layout will be engaged through ADB's Office of Administrative Services.

18. ADB will select and engage consultants in accordance with its Guidelines on the Use of Consultants (2013, as amended from time to time). For this TA, except for some surveys, hiring individual consultants will provide more benefits for ADB than engaging a firm because of (i) faster mobilization of consultants, (ii) greater control of ADB staff in selecting and managing individual consultants and experts, and (iii) greater flexibility in engaging experts specializing in a broad spectrum of RCI and productivity-related topics.

19. Purchases of equipment 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, where applicable. After the TA is completed, all equipment will be turned over or disposed of in compliance with ADB guidelines on administering grant-financed TA projects. Disbursements under this 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 \$1,000,000 on a grant basis for the Roundtable Conference: Future Asian Regional Cooperation and Integration Agenda, and hereby reports this action to the Board.

DESIGN AND MONITORING FRAMEWORK

Design Summary	Performance Targets and Indicators with Baselines ^a	Data Sources and Reporting Mechanisms	Assumptions and Risks
<p>Impact</p> <p>Second-generation RCI policies and recommendations (trade- and productivity-driven growth) implemented in ADB DMCs</p>	<p>By 2020, at least five regional policy or program recommendations in the second-generation RCI agenda focusing on productivity enhancement have been implemented or included in DMC national or regional plans (2014 baseline: 0)</p> <p>By 2016, at least three regional policy or program recommendations in the second-generation RCI agenda focusing on productivity enhancement have been included in ADB country and regional strategies and operational plans (2014 baseline: 0)</p>	<p>Reports by government officials at regional economic policy dialogue meetings</p> <p>Country strategy programs and country reports</p> <p>Statistical and business reports and databases such as those of ADB, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization, and the World Bank</p>	<p>Assumption</p> <p>Sustained interest and support in regional cooperation by DMCs</p> <p>Risk</p> <p>Major changes in global and regional environments adversely affect national priorities and policies, and the prospects for regional cooperation</p>
<p>Outcome</p> <p>Support for second-generation RCI agenda by DMCs and other stakeholders increased</p>	<p>By 2015</p> <p>At least 60% of the conference and Annual Meeting seminar participants state that they are likely to support or adopt at least one of the policy or program recommendations in the second-generation RCI agenda (2014 baseline: 0)</p>	<p>Questionnaire completed by RCI conference and ADB Annual Meeting participants at the conclusion of the events</p>	<p>Assumptions</p> <p>Sustained interest in regional cooperation by DMCs</p> <p>ADB's continued strong support for RCI agenda</p> <p>Risk</p> <p>Delays in the survey work needed to finalize analytical studies for the roundtable conference</p>
<p>Outputs</p> <p>1. Analytical studies on key RCI topics produced</p>	<p>At least six analytical papers with specific and actionable recommendations completed and disseminated to the participants of the roundtable conference in November 2014 (topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. RCI and Productivity b. RCI and MICs c. RCI and FCAS/LLDCs 	<p>Research reports, proceedings of focus group discussions, and interviews conducted</p> <p>Survey results</p>	<p>Assumptions</p> <p>Qualified experts available to be recruited in a timely manner</p> <p>Relevant ADB staff have time and are available to provide in-house expertise</p> <p>Comments and reviews from relevant experts can be gathered in a timely manner</p>

Design Summary	Performance Targets and Indicators with Baselines ^a	Data Sources and Reporting Mechanisms	Assumptions and Risks
	<p>d. Special Economic Zones e. Inter Subregional Cooperation f. Regional Financing Mechanisms (2014 baseline: 0)</p> <p>At least five country case reports completed by November 2014 (2014 baseline: 0)</p>		<p>Full commitment of internal and external experts to be members of the research team is given</p> <p>Relevant DMC officials and other stakeholders are available to participate</p> <p>Risks No common time available among stakeholders to conduct focus group discussions and interviews for the country case studies</p> <p>Resistance from stakeholders, particularly in the private sector, to support necessary interviews, data collection, and surveys</p> <p>Unavailability of key external experts to attend and participate in the knowledge events</p> <p>Unavailability of key national officials to provide timely comments on the draft publication</p>
2. Understanding of key stakeholders of future RCI agenda improved	<p>At least 150 selected high-level ADB DMC officials and representatives from the private sector, think tanks, and development partners attend Asian RCI roundtable conference (to be held in November 2014)</p> <p>At least two in-country dissemination workshops organized by November 2015</p> <p>One seminar during the 2015 ADB Annual Meeting organized</p>	<p>Workshop, seminar, focus group discussion, interview proceedings</p> <p>Presentation materials from speakers</p>	

Design Summary	Performance Targets and Indicators with Baselines ^a	Data Sources and Reporting Mechanisms	Assumptions and Risks
3. Seminal knowledge work on second-generation RCI published and disseminated	At least six working papers published and disseminated (2014 baseline: 0) One book containing the analytical studies and discussions during the RCI roundtable conference published by April 2015 in time for the ADB Annual Meeting seminar (2014 baseline: 0)	Proceedings and documentations of all the TA activities, including focus group discussions, interviews, regional and in-country workshops	
Activities with Milestones 1. Analytical studies conducted 1.1 Conduct fact-finding or country consultation missions (February–April 2014) 1.2 Engage consultants and resource persons (August–September 2014) 1.3 Submit outlines of the background papers (August 2014) 1.4 Review outlines of the background papers (August 2014) 1.5 Prepare analytical studies (August–October 2014) 1.6 Submit interim and stocktaking reports, review of literature, and baseline studies (September 2014) 1.7 Review interim report (September 2014) 1.8 Submit final draft (October 2014) 2. Knowledge events conducted 2.1 Organize the Asian RCI roundtable conference (August–November 2014) 2.2 Conduct the Asian RCI roundtable conference (November 2014) 2.3 Present the second-generation RCI agenda focused on enhancing productivity at the 2015 ADB Annual Meeting seminar and book launch (April–May 2015) 2.4 Organize in-country dissemination workshops (June–November 2015) 3. Knowledge products published 3.1 Publish working papers and/or conference proceedings on second-generation RCI (November 2014–April 2015)		Inputs ADB Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF-V): \$1,000,000 11 person-months of international and 24 person-months of national consulting services (\$320,000) and travel (\$40,000) Training, seminars, and meetings, including 3 person-months of resource persons (\$400,000) Equipment (\$10,000) Publication (\$50,000) Surveys (\$60,000) Miscellaneous administration support (\$20,000) Contingencies \$100,000 Total cost \$1,000,000 ADB staff as resource persons.	

ADB = Asian Development Bank, DMC = developing member country, RCI = regional cooperation and integration, TA = technical assistance.

^a By the end of the program unless otherwise noted. 2014 baseline is zero unless otherwise noted.

Source: Asian Development Bank.

COST ESTIMATES AND FINANCING PLAN
(\$'000)

Item	Amount
Asian Development Bank^a	
1. Consultants	
a. Remuneration and per diem	
i. International consultants	180.0
ii. National consultants	130.0
iii. Reports and communication	10.0
b. International and local travel	40.0
2. Seminars, conferences, and workshops ^c	400.0
3. Equipment ^b	10.0
4. Publication	50.0
5. Surveys	60.0
6. Miscellaneous administration and support costs	20.0
7. Contingencies	100.0
Total	1,000.0

^a Financed by the Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF-V) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

^b Refers to hardware, software, and/or databases to be used for the conduct of analytical studies. After completion of the technical assistance, procured equipment will be turned over or disposed of in compliance with ADB. 2013. Administering Grant Financed Technical Assistance Projects. *Project Administration Instructions*. PAI 5.09. Manila.

^c ADB staff may be engaged as resource persons.

Source: Asian Development Bank estimates.

OUTLINE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANTS

A. International Consultants

1. **Sector specialists** (5 consultants, 8 person-months total). The sector specialists, with minimum relevant experience of 5 years, should be international experts with proven knowledge and extensive work experience on the topics below in relation to regional integration efforts in the Asia and Pacific region or other regions. The consultants will preferably have adequate experience in working with international financial institutions. In collaboration with the Office of Regional Economic Integration (OREI) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and other departments concerned, the consultants will

- (i) write or co-write analytical papers on any of the following topics related to regional and economic integration (RCI): (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, and (f) regional institutions and financing mechanisms;
- (ii) undertake surveys in relation to the analytical studies;
- (iii) present their respective research work in meetings and workshops that will be organized by ADB's OREI;
- (iv) help organize the relevant sessions in the conference, including identifying resource persons who could be invited to the conference;
- (v) attend the RCI conference as discussants; and
- (vi) incorporate the comments from the conference and subsequently submit the final reports to ADB.

2. **Economics editor** (3 person-months). The economics editor will be an economist with extensive experience in writing and editing economic publications. The consultant will be engaged to ensure production of a high-quality publication comprising the analytical papers and an overview chapter. The consultant will review and edit the contents of the publication produced under this technical assistance to ensure coherence and readability, and the highest publication standards. Specific tasks include the following:

- (i) rewrite, add, or delete information, and help revise various pages or sections, if necessary, to tighten arguments, fill in gaps in the discussions, and ensure the smooth flow of ideas;
- (ii) examine the tables, figures, and charts to ensure data consistency within pages and documents; and suggest deletions and additions to ensure that they are useful;
- (iii) edit the pages for publication; and
- (iv) ensure that documents adhere to ADB's *Handbook of Style and Usage* and conform to high publication standards.¹

B. National Consultants

3. **Research associate** (12 person-months). The research associate, with minimum relevant experience of 5 years, will be an economist, experienced in doing RCI-related research, familiar in handling economic and finance sector data, and knowledgeable in handling research projects. The consultant will be engaged to take stock of the achievements of ADB's various subregional programs during 1994–2014. The consultant will collect and review ADB

¹ ADB. 2011. *Handbook of Style and Usage*. Manila.

reports, regional and country strategies, and other relevant documents and write a report containing detailed chronological information by subregional program. Familiarity with regional economic integration issues in Asia, ADB operations, and ADB products and services will be an advantage.

4. **Project coordinator** (12 person-months). The project coordinator will have solid experience and good reputation in coordinating events like conferences and workshops. The consultant should have a good knowledge in administering research projects and the publication process, and strong analytical and communication skills. Having an academic background in economics or related areas and sufficient experience in coordination work, preferably in similar assignments involving economic analysis and publications, and familiarity with issues concerning regional economic integration in Asia, will be an advantage. Under the supervision of OREI staff, the consultant will

- (i) maintain communication with international and national consultants and resource persons;
- (ii) provide administrative support to the technical assistance project team by arranging meetings and preparing the materials and documents required;
- (iii) prepare minutes of the meetings;
- (iv) liaise with consultants and ADB staff in organizing the RCI conference and other preparatory meetings;
- (v) organize video conferences, including all logistical and administrative support such as budget summaries;
- (vi) coordinate logistical arrangements for the RCI conference, including travel, hotel reservations, and venue arrangements;
- (vii) prepare and disseminate materials to participants in the RCI conference and other preparatory meetings;
- (viii) liaise with ADB's Department of External Relations on the production of knowledge products;
- (ix) prepare and maintain a database of resource persons; and
- (x) provide backstopping during the RCI conference and other preparatory meetings and provide off-site support for in-country workshops and missions.

5. **Survey experts** (3 person-months, firm). Survey firms, whether academic institutions, research centers, or consulting companies will be engaged to prepare the sample for the surveys, conduct interviews, and prepare reports summarizing the results of the surveys.

C. Resource Persons

6. **Resource persons** (about 10 resource persons, 3 person-months total). ADB will engage resource persons for short periods to review the draft papers and participate as facilitators or discussants in the roundtable conference.