ADB ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Regional: Information and Communication Technology for Development Initiative Facility in Asia and the Pacific

Project Name	Information and Communication Technology for Development Initiative Facility in Asia and the Pacific
Project Number	48240-001
Country	Regional
Project Status	Active
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance
Source of Funding / Amount	**TA 8813-REG: Information and Communication Technology for Development Initiative Facility in Asia and the Pacific**
	Technical Assistance Special Fund — US$ 500,000.00
	Republic of Korea e-Asia and Knowledge Partnership Fund — US$ 500,000.00
	TA 8813-REG: Information and Communication Technology for Development Initiative Facility in Asia and the Pacific (Supplementary)
	Republic of Korea e-Asia and Knowledge Partnership Fund — US$ 1.00 million
Strategic Agendas	Environmentally sustainable growth Inclusive economic growth Regional integration
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions Partnerships Private sector development
Sector / Subsector	**Information and communication technology** - ICT strategy and policy, and capacity development
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Some gender elements
Description	The TA aims to increase broadband connectivity and high impact ICT applications and services for the economic and social development in the DMCs. The TA will have five outputs: (i) country-level assessments of options for integrating ICT support in ADB's operations; (ii) pre-feasibility studies on potential ICTD projects for DMCs; (iii) a partnership framework for resource mobilization on ICTD projects in DMCs; (iv) knowledge sharing and capacity development programs; and (v) a knowledge portal on ICTD in Asia and the Pacific. ADB will be the executing agency and RSDD will implement the TA, in collaboration with operational departments for identification of target countries and strategic guidance. Office of Information Systems and Technology for technical support; Office of Cofinancing Operations for discussion with potential co-financing partners; and RSDD-Knowledge Sharing and Services Center, for knowledge products and platform development, as needed. RSDD will coordinate with regional departments regarding any communication and/or consultation with participating DMCs. Concurrence of the participating governments will be obtained, as required. Government agencies and stakeholders in DMCs will submit ICT pre-feasibility project preparation and capacity development program requests to RSDD and ITU. After these are screened and approved, concurrence from the relevant operations department will be obtained. Depending on the technical focus of the pre-feasibility study, a small advisory panel of ADB and ITU staff may be formed. For each sub-project, an implementing agency will be identified.

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	The spread of ICT has promoted a more connected, networked, and interdependent world. ICT has made a substantial contribution to economic growth, and has empowered populations by lowering development costs; reducing corruption and inefficiency; and by improving quality and enhancing transparency in service delivery. It has also promoted better, more affordable access to government services.
	ADB recognizes the great and growing importance of ICT for development. The Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Strategy 2020 states that ADB will use ICT more effectively in projects to improve development impact, and utilize ICT to improve access to finance DMCs. Between 2000 and 2012, ADB has supported 444 ICT-related projects. Despite this, there is a tremendous gap among and within DMCs in terms of ICT access. Just one-third of the DMC households have internet access. The costs of broadband connections remain high, at nearly a third of average DMC incomes. In many countries, ICT for Development (ICTD) is hampered by lack of ICT infrastructure, insufficient government support for developing or partnering with the private sector to provide ICT infrastructure, and poorly performing universal access policies. In rural and geographically remote areas in the Asia-Pacific region, the digital divide remains wide, with large segments of Asia-Pacific's population effectively excluded from the benefits of digital technology and the advantages that new information economies can bring. DMCs need to proactively increase ICT access for underserved populations if Asia-Pacific's digital divide is to be bridged. DMC governments have adopted ICT strategies, plans, e-readiness assessments, and e-governance programs. The ability of DMC governments to translate these into action is hampered by inadequate financial resources, insufficient managerial and technical competence in ICT, weak ICT regulatory regimes and public-private partnership arrangements, and most importantly, weak institutional capacity for preparing ICT projects.
	ADB financial support for ICTD initiatives could be greater than it is now if there was greater understanding of ICT needs and requirements in the DMCs. For ADB, it is important that ICTD programs be identified when country strategies and COBPs are prepared_often there are ICTD opportunities but ADB's country teams are unaware of them. Starting in 2014, a model for country-specific assessments of ICT opportunities for ADB was developed, and this could be extended to more countries to enhance ADB's understanding of country-specific ICT requirements and to integrate these in to ADB's pipeline of country support.
	There have been some TAs and on-going TAs focused on developing governments' capacity in preparing good ICT projects and programs. However, those TA were not directly connected to ADB operations or the scope of the intervention was not comprehensive in terms of regions, sectors and thematic areas. The proposed TA will make a close link with country partnership strategies of target DMCs and also leverage resources and expertise of potential partners to cover broad regions and topic areas wherever strong demands are exist.
	In April 2014, ADB and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) launched the _ICT for Development for Asia and the Pacific (ICTD-ASP) Initiative_. The Initiative aims to: (i) provide advisory support for ICTD investments prioritization and pre-feasibility studies on high priority ICTD investment projects; (ii) mobilize resources and facilitate ICTD investment through coordinated partnerships among stakeholders; and (iii) enhance institutional ICTD capacity through sharing experiences and knowledge on ICTD in Asia and the Pacific. The ITU is a specialized UN agency actively supporting ICT sector development. For this reason, it is expected that the ICTD-ASP Initiative will be rapidly implemented and embraced across Asia and the Pacific.
	The proposed TA will support the implementation of ICTD-ASP Initiative in collaboration with ITU, a global center of excellence, and other partners in Asia and the Pacific. The TA will assist DMCs to improve universal access policies and programs, and boost the supply of ICT infrastructure and ICT-enabled service delivery projects that are ready for financing. It will strengthen ADB's ability to identify and finance ICTD projects. It will also contribute to building a network of public and private partners willing to invest in such projects.
Impact	A narrowing of the digital divide and improved (ICT-enhanced) service delivery.

Project Outcome

Description of Outcome	Increased governments' capacity to identify and prepare ICTD investments in DMCs
Progress Toward Outcome	

Implementation Progress	
Description of Project Outputs	1. Country-level assessments of options for integrating ICT support in ADB's operations 2. Pre-feasibility studies on potential ICTD projects for DMCs 3. A partnership framework for resource mobilization on ICTD projects in DMCs 4. Knowledge sharing and capacity development programs 5. Contents of a knowledge portal on ICTD developed

| Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues) | On the average, 90% of the planned TA outputs have already been accomplished. Specifically, (i) Output 1. Two diagnostic country studies on ICT readiness has been undertaken to identify options for integrating ICT support into ADB CPSs in both Indonesia and Sri Lanka; (ii) Output 2. A pre-feasibility study on the national identity program in Cambodia and a regional study on public internet access center for rural development have been conducted; (iii) Output 3. Two regional conferences on ICT for Developments (Digital Strategies for Development Summit 2015 in Cebu, Philippines and Innovative Strategies for Development Summit 2016 in Manila, Philippines) were held to share knowledge and experiences on ICT, building a partnership network among potential public and private partners; (iv) Output 4. Three knowledge sharing workshops have been organized in Korea (A Study Visit Program on IT Park 22-24 August 2016, Cross-Country Learning on Integrated Approaches for Developing Social Protection Information Systems through Unique Identity on 22-24 August 2016, and ICT in Education on 9-11 August 2016) in support of ADB's operations; and (iv) Output 5. A report on _Identity for Development in Asia and the Pacific_ is published in Nov 2016 and another publication on _Public Internet Center for Rural Development_ is being prepared for 2017. A number of knowledge products from Output 4. and knowledge sharing workshops have been posted and uploaded at ADB's online portals. |
| Geographical Location | |

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects	
Involuntary Resettlement	
Indigenous Peoples	
Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation	
During Project Design	ADB has closely collaborated with ITU as a primary partner in developing the concept of the TA from the begining. Also, ADB and ITU will discuss potential collaboration with other partners including NIA, USAID, UNPOG of the ICTD-ASP initiative during the project design stage. More importantly, IA will discuss with ADB's operational departments (ODs) on how to operationalize the ICTD-ASP initiative in ADB operations.
During Project Implementation	Not only donors but DMCs' participation are very important to implement the ICTD-ASP initiatives successfully. Also, the implementation of the TA will be coordinated with ODs all time. With regard to the concrete plans in collaboration with development partners, the TA will prepare MOUs or written documents if necessary.

Responsible Staff

Responsible ADB Officer	Yoon, Seok Yong
Responsible ADB Department	Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department
Responsible ADB Division	SDTC
Executing Agencies	*Asian Development Bank* *6 ADB Avenue,* *Mandaluyong City 1550, Philippines*

Timetable

Concept Clearance	15 Oct 2014
Fact Finding	17 Jul 2014 to 03 Aug 2014
MRM	-
Approval	16 Dec 2014
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	24 Apr 2017

TA 8813-REG

Milestones					
			Closing		
Approval	**Signing Date**	**Effectivity Date**	**Original**	**Revised**	**Actual**
16 Dec 2014	-	16 Dec 2014	31 Dec 2017	31 Dec 2019	-

Financing Plan/TA Utilization	**Cumulative Disbursements**

ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
1,500,000.00	500,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000,000.00	16 Dec 2014	541,239.17

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/48240-001/main
Request for Information	http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=48240-001
Date Generated	06 July 2017