



Cambodia: National Rollout of the Regulatory Impact Assessment in Government

Project Name	National Rollout of the Regulatory Impact Assessment in Government				
Project Number	48298-001				
Country	Cambodia				
Project Status	Active				
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance				
Source of Funding / Amount	<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2">TA 8834-CAM: National Rollout of the Regulatory Impact Assessment in Government</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Technical Assistance Special Fund</td> <td>US\$ 800,000.00</td> </tr> </table>	TA 8834-CAM: National Rollout of the Regulatory Impact Assessment in Government		Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 800,000.00
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Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth				
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions Partnerships Private sector development				
Sector / Subsector	Public sector management - Economic affairs management				
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Effective gender mainstreaming				
Description	In February 2014, the Office of the Council of Ministers (OCM) asked the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for technical assistance (TA) to support the national rollout of the regulatory impact assessment (RIA) program to the executive government commencing in 2015. In response, ADB conducted a fact-finding mission in June 2014; during that mission ADB and OCM agreed on the proposed impact, outcome and outputs, implementation arrangements, cost, financing arrangements, and terms of reference as laid out in the approved concept paper. The government's planned rollout of RIA to 23 line ministries builds on OCM's experience in piloting RIA in 7 line ministries from 2011 to 2014 with technical assistance from ADB under Grant 0224. Previous consultations on plans for a national rollout were held on an intermittent basis from February 2013 to February 2014 and benefitted from previous Grant 0224 implementation review missions.				
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>Cambodia continues to reform its economy to raise competitiveness for private sector development and considers improving the quality of regulation making central to its economic and governance reform agenda. While there have been successful reforms in specific sectors, such as the enterprise law, the licensing and permit requirements in doing business in Cambodia are substantial and do impose a significant burden on investors and small and medium-sized enterprises in particular.</p> <p>The Government of Cambodia is currently piloting a regulatory impact assessment (RIA) project as one of its approaches to addressing the high cost of doing business in Cambodia. The pilot project is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2015. The RIA program aims to assist government improve the quality of regulation making by following a systematic regulatory review process including an assessment of the net benefits of the regulation to the economy. A systematic approach to public consultations on regulations is part of the regulatory review process. The RIA reform was initiated by OCM in 2010 when it established the Office of Regulatory Impact Assessment (ORIA) and piloted RIA in four line ministries with ADB assistance under Grant 0224. In January 2014, OCM extended the pilot to seven line ministries.</p> <p>The RIA system being piloted by OCM draws on good international practice. It includes the establishment of the ORIA at the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) in OCM, which champions the RIA initiative in government, produces RIA guidelines, monitoring participating ministries' compliance with RIA guidelines, providing training and other capacity development activities to the ministries and takes responsibility for public awareness and education on good practice regulation. Each participating line ministry is responsible for carrying out RIA on a selection of existing or proposed regulations or bills and submits these with the draft regulation to the concerned minister as part of the decision making process. The main objectives of the RIA system and documentation is to enhance transparency in the regulation making process and promote a more systematic way to assess the impact of regulations and consultations for improved decision making.</p>				
Impact	Quality of laws and regulations improved				

Project Outcome

Description of Outcome	Institutional architecture for reviewing regulatory proposals strengthened
Progress Toward Outcome	
Implementation Progress	
Description of Project Outputs	Capacity of staff at the Office of RIA developed Capacity of staff in line ministries developed Public outreach developed
Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)	Expressions of Interest (EOIs) have been received by ADB for the following consultants positions advertised: (i) National IT expert; (ii) International Finance Officer; and (iii) National Project Officer. As requested by ORIA, the engagement of the national IT expert will be given priority for the development of its website.
Geographical Location	

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects	
Involuntary Resettlement	
Indigenous Peoples	
Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation	
During Project Design	Capacity development of staff at the ORIA. Once approved in early 2015, the Royal decree will make the ORIA a permanent office within ECOSOCC of OCOM to oversee the rollout of RIA and compliance with it. Capacity development of ORIA staff will include staff training on RIA, writing techniques for regulatory impact statements (RIS), qualitative and quantitative analysis, secondments to overseas offices of best practice regulations, enhancements to its existing information technology system for tracking progress on RIA among the line ministries, and production of annual reports on regulation. Capacity development of staff in 13 line ministries. Each line ministry will set up a RIA unit, designate a focal person and staff to become RIA practitioners. Thus capacity development activities will include staff training on RIA, writing RIS, developing questionnaires and survey sample frames, basic qualitative and quantitative analysis, and stakeholder assessments.
During Project Implementation	The executing agency will be ECOSOCC of OCM, which is a council within the OCM responsible for impact assessments of laws and subdecrees. The ORIA in ECOSOCC will oversee implementation of RIA activities. The implementation agencies (IA) will comprise of the 7 line ministries implementing RIA plus an additional 6 ministries to be determined after the Royal decree has been approved. ORIA (through ECOSOCC) will provide office space with furniture and support services for the consultants. A team of two international consultants and three national consultants will be recruited by ADB through individual contract services to implement activities under outputs 1_3. In addition, up to five resource persons will be invited to assist with training workshops on specialized topics. The selection and recruitment of consultants and resource persons will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Guidelines on the Use of Consultants. TA proceeds will be disbursed in accordance with the ADB's Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook. Equipment procured under this TA will be procured following ADB's Procurement Guidelines and the assets will be handed over to the executing agency upon completion of the project. The TA will be implemented over 24 months (starting in April 2015, and ending by March 2017), following the signing of the TA agreement between the government and ADB.

Business Opportunities

Consulting Services	Two international experts (for a total of 15 person-months) and three national experts (for a total of 24 person-months) will be engaged to implement TA activities.
Procurement	Equipment such as computers and office equipment for the six ministries joining the rollout for the first time will be procured under this TA following ADB's Procurement Guidelines (2013, as amended from time to time).

Responsible Staff

Responsible ADB Officer	Mohd Ismail, Mohd Sani
Responsible ADB Department	Southeast Asia Department
Responsible ADB Division	Public Management, Financial Sector and Trade Division, SERD
Executing Agencies	<i>Economic, Social and Cultural Council Office of the Council of Ministers, Rm25, 2nd Floor, East Wing, #41 Russian Federation Blvd., Phnom Penh, Cambodia</i>

Timetable

Concept Clearance	07 Aug 2014
Fact Finding	30 Jun 2014 to 04 Jul 2014
MRM	-
Approval	12 Dec 2014
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	27 Mar 2015

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Milestones					
Approval	Signing Date	Effectivity Date	Closing		
			Original	Revised	Actual
12 Dec 2014	16 Jan 2015	16 Jan 2015	31 Dec 2016	31 Dec 2017	-

Financing Plan/TA Utilization						Cumulative Disbursements		
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
800,000.00	0.00	50,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	850,000.00	12 Dec 2014	426,965.66

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/48298-001/main
Request for Information	http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=48298-001
Date Generated	06 July 2017

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