



Regional: The Future of Regional Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific

Project Name	The Future of Regional Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific		
Project Number	49068-001		
Country	Regional		
Project Status	Active		
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance		
Source of Funding / Amount	TA 9032-REG: The Future of Regional Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific		
	Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 850,000.00	
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	Multisector - Under corporate priority framework meeting		
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Some gender elements		
Description	This corporate TA will support the implementation of the ADB Strategy 2020 midterm review recommendations under a proposed RCI Operational Plan by producing operationally-relevant knowledge work to guide ADB's future operations in RCI. More specifically, this TA is envisioned to produce knowledge products consisting of (i) one background paper on regionalism in Asia and the Pacific: emerging trends, opportunities, and challenges; (ii) a thematic paper on economic clusters and economic corridor development; (iii) a research report that consolidates the key findings and recommendations of the two knowledge products; and (iii) a synthesis paper summarizing the implications for ADB's operations in RCI.		
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	Regionalism in Asia and the Pacific is often described as unique: market-driven, dynamic, open, multitrack, and multispeed, owing to different development patterns, economic circumstances, and geopolitical realities across the region. This model has served the region well, with RCI playing an increasingly important role in the region's economic development. ADB has sought to take this process forward through a bottom-up approach built on support to subregional cooperation efforts, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), ASEAN+3 (ASEAN plus the People's Republic of China, Japan, and Republic of Korea); the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC); the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS); and the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC), with focus on cross border infrastructure and related software, trade and investment, monetary and financial cooperation, and regional public goods. These subregional cooperation efforts have progressed at different speeds and served as building blocks for an eventual broader and more unified regional architecture.		
Impact	RCI initiatives that address the emerging challenges faced by ADB's DMCs are implemented (ADB Strategy 2020)		

Project Outcome

Description of Outcome	New and/or enhanced RCI initiatives are identified
Progress Toward Outcome	
Implementation Progress	

Description of Project Outputs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knowledge products on RCI produced 2. Research results disseminated 3. Synthesis paper on programmatic and operational implications produced
Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)	
Geographical Location	

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects
Involuntary Resettlement
Indigenous Peoples

Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design	Consultations with ADB's regional and operational departments, through the RCI Thematic Group will be conducted to improve the design of the TA paper.
During Project Implementation	<p>The TA will be implemented over a period of 18 months, from July 2015 to December 2016, in close collaboration with ADB's regional departments, PSOD and SDCC. ADB will also coordinate with other global and regional institutions, e.g. the GIZ, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), World Bank, World Customs Organization and World Trade Organization, to explore partnerships in producing the knowledge work and conduct of other activities under this TA. The TA will require approximately 31 person-months of international, and 36 person-months of national consulting services, and 1.8 person-months of resource persons. All consultants will be selected and engaged individually by ADB in accordance with ADB's Guidelines on the Use of Consultants (2015, as amended from time to time). For this TA, hiring a team of individual consultants will provide more benefits for ADB than engaging a firm because of the following reasons: (i) faster mobilization of consultants, (ii) greater control by ADB staff in selecting and managing individual consultants; and (iii) greater flexibility in engaging experts specializing in a broad spectrum of RCI-related topics.</p> <p>Two individual international consultants will be engaged for each output. An economics editor, who will review and edit the knowledge product that will be produced under this TA, will also be engaged. About 4 resource persons will be invited either to present or write background papers for regional workshops or serve as peer reviewers for the knowledge product that will be produced under this TA. The TA will require two national consultants—one to assist in supervising and coordinating the TA activities and outputs, and the other to provide research support. A typesetter for graphics and design, typesetting, and publication layout, will also be needed, and will be sourced out from the roster of ADB's Department of External Relations. Appendix 3 provides the outline terms of reference for consultants.</p> <p>Purchases of equipment (computer hardware and software) and statistical databases will be undertaken in accordance with ADB's Procurement Guidelines (2015, as amended from time to time), in coordination with ADB's Office of Information Systems and Technology and Office of Administrative Services where applicable. After the TA is completed, any procured equipment will be disposed 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). The project officer and other ADB experts will serve as contributors to the research and development of the knowledge products or as resource persons during the workshops to be conducted under this TA.</p>

Business Opportunities

Consulting Services	<p>The TA will require approximately 29 person-months of international consulting services, 30 person-months of national consulting services, and 4.1 person-months of resource persons. All consultants will be selected and engaged individually by ADB in accordance with ADB's Guidelines on the Use of Consultants (2013, as amended from time to time). For this TA, hiring a team of individual consultants will provide more benefits for ADB than engaging a firm because of the following reasons: (i) faster mobilization of consultants, (ii) greater control by ADB staff in selecting and managing individual consultants; and (iii) greater flexibility in engaging experts specializing in a broad spectrum of RCI-related topics.</p> <p>Eleven international consultants will be engaged to prepare the background, thematic, and synthesis papers. An economics editor will also be engaged to help review and edit the knowledge products that will be produced under this TA. Six resource persons will be invited either to present or write background papers for regional workshops, or to serve as peer reviewers for the knowledge products that will be produced under this TA.</p> <p>The TA will require five national consultants: one to assist in supervising and coordinating the TA activities and outputs, and four to provide research support. A typesetter will be sourced from ADB's Department of External Relations list of accredited service providers who will be responsible for graphics and design, typesetting, and page layout. Appendix 3 of the TA report provides the outline terms of reference for consultants.</p>
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Responsible Staff

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Responsible ADB Department	Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department
Responsible ADB Division	Office of the Chief Economist, ERD
Executing Agencies	<i>Asian Development Bank Jayant Menon jmenon@adb.org 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550, Philippines</i>

Timetable

Concept Clearance	11 May 2015
Fact Finding	19 Mar 2015 to 23 Mar 2015
MRM	-
Approval	10 Dec 2015
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	22 Dec 2015

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Milestones					
Approval	Signing Date	Effectivity Date	Closing		
			Original	Revised	Actual
10 Dec 2015	-	10 Dec 2015	31 Dec 2016	30 Jun 2018	-

Financing Plan/TA Utilization							Cumulative Disbursements	
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
850,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	850,000.00	10 Dec 2015	153,862.22

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/49068-001/main
Request for Information	http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=49068-001
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