Regional: Pacific Fellows Program

Project Name	Pacific Fellows Program
Project Number	50308-001
Country	Regional
Project Status	Active
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance
Source of Funding / Amount	TA: Pacific Fellows Program
	Technical Assistance Special Fund US\$ 900,000.00
Strategic Agendas	Environmentally sustainable growth Inclusive economic growth Regional integration
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions
Sector / Subsector	Public sector management - Public administration
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Effective gender mainstreaming
Description	The proposed technical assistance (TA) will build the capacity of Pacific Developing Member Countries (PDMCs) to promote and manage their sustainable economic development. The TA will finance a fellows program for mid-level staff in executing and implementing agencies from PDMCs to support mutual learning and knowledge sharing, and contribute to effective project design and implementation. The fellows will gain professional work experience in ADB opertaions as well as contribute to ADB operations by applying their skills and insights from a local and/or DMC perspective.
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	PDMCs face a unique development context due to their small size, remoteness, internal dispersion, vulnerability to economic shocks, climate change and natural disasters, as well as complex traditional institutional structures. Among other things, this context contributes to: (i) low institutional capacity; (ii) high aid dependence; and (iii) a strong need to tailor development approaches to the local context. Many PDMCs are heavily reliant on ADB project financing in a number of areas, notably infrastructure, as well as technical assistance in areas such as public sector management and private sector development. Thinly stretched public administrations offer limited opportunities to build PDMC staff capacity. Heavy aid dependence means it is critical that PDMCs are able to effectively manage and engage with their major development partners, notably ADB. However, many PDMC officials have a limited understanding of ADB policies, practices, and role as a multilateral development bank. It is important for PDMCs to learn from development experiences elsewhere, including within the Pacific subregion itself and also in Asia. Further, it is essential that ADB operations are highly responsive to the unique development context of the PDMCs and incorporate relevant local knowledge and insights as much as possible. The fellows program is expected to help strengthen infrastructure development, public sector management, and private sector development, all of which are key strategic priorities for all PDMC governments and aligned with ADB country assistance strategies for the PDMCs, including those for Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, and Fiji as well as under the Pacific approach 2016-2020 which serves as the operational framework of ADB for the Pacific region and the overall country partnership strategy for the 11 smaller Pacific Island Countries the Cook Islands, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.
Impact	 (i) Costs reduced: improving the availability, affordability and reliability of energy, information communication technology, and transport infrastructure. (ii) Risks managed: greater resilience to external economic and financial shocks, climate change, and natural disasters. (iii) Value creation enabled: better environment for private sector development, productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity, and innovation.

Description of Outcome

The outcome will be improved PDMC capacity to promote and manage sustainable economic development. This will be measured through survey questionnaires of relevant staff in participating organizations and ADB. This will assess the extent to which respondents report improved individual and organizational capacity in the relevant field and enhanced capacity to work effectively with ADB as a key development partner. By the end of the TA, participating organizations should report a notable improvement in these areas.

Progress Toward Outcome

Implementation Progress

Description of Project Outputs PDMC staff capacity improved, with gender balanced participation

PDMC capacity to work effectively with ADB enhanced Greater integration of DMC knowledge into ADB operations

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 PDMC governments, Pacific Country teams, various ADB departments in headquarter & in regional

resident missions.

During Project Implementation PDMC governments, Pacific Country teams, various ADB departments in headquarter & in regional

resident missions.

Business Opportunities

Consulting Services Two international consultants will be recruited for this TA. The positions include a strategic Advisor

(international, 3 person-months intermittent) and a Program Manager (national, 26 person-months continuous).

Procurement The TA will require shopping of IT equipment.

 Responsible ADB Officer
 Everett, Hayden B.

 Responsible ADB Department
 Pacific Department

 Responsible ADB Division
 Pacific Liaison and Coordination Office in Sydney, Australia

 Executing Agencies
 Asian Development Bank 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550, Philippines

Timetable	
Concept Clearance	09 Nov 2016
Fact Finding	-
MRM	-
Approval	30 Aug 2017
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	04 Sep 2017

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/50308-001/main
Request for Information	http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=50308-001
Date Generated	06 September 2017

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