

## OUTLINE OF TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTING SERVICES

### A. Structure of Consultant Inputs

1. The knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) will require the services of international and national experts. Consultants will be recruited in accordance with Guidelines on the Use of Consultants (2013, as amended from time to time). A pool of experts of international and national consultants will support the preparation of investment projects and related policy reforms to accelerate the implementation of the Almaty-Bishkek Economic Corridor (ABEC). All TA financed goods and services shall be procured in accordance with ADB Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and the associated PAIs/TA Staff Instructions.

2. The terms of references (TORs) are outlined below with the intend to remain flexible, demand driven and responsive to the requirements of the implementation of ABEC. Detailed TORs will be developed in coordination with the ABEC subcommittee members and the ABEC sector working groups to ensure alignment with evolving priorities and needs during the TA implementation period. The detailed TORs will be developed under the following criteria. The consultancy:

- is in line with the Almaty-Bishkek Economic Corridor as outlined in the ABCI Investment Framework<sup>1</sup> and the upcoming ABEC Implementation Plan;
- helps implementing national and regional policies of the two governments;
- has a regional impact;
- is focused on achieving outputs in Almaty City, Almaty Oblast, Zhambyl Oblast in Kazakhstan and Bishkek, Chui Oblast, Issyk-Kul Oblast in Kyrgyz Republic to create one economic space;
- is in line with ADB's strategies and operational guidelines.

### B. Terms of Reference for TA Consultants

3. **Pool of Experts** (international/national) up to 22 experts (for a maximum of 54 expert months) including for agriculture; tourism and urban; education and health; transport and logistics; and ICT sectors. The sector experts will be recognized experts in their respective fields, with good communication skills and experience with economic development (and particularly in developing Asian economies). Their responsibilities will include the following:

- Prepare pragmatic and results-focused studies to identify or design project and reform initiatives with explicit regional integration and agglomeration benefits in consultation with the two countries.
- Prepare concepts and pre-feasibility studies for investment projects and regulatory reform recommended actions to address the identified issues and problems.
- Prepare economic and financial assessment for the projects, based on realistic assumptions.
- Involve private sector representatives and businesses in the design of project and reforms, including through developing public-private partnerships.
- Coordinate with other development partners and ensure complementarity with existing projects, reforms, and knowledge products.
- Engage with civil society and other interest groups to consult on the design of planned projects and reforms and assess possible risks to project implementation.

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<sup>1</sup> ADB. 2016. *Growing Together—Almaty-Bishkek Corridor Initiative Investment Framework*. Manila

- Engage with local universities and think tanks to draw on existing research.
- Work in a team of international and national experts within and across sectors.
- Assess the distribution of urban and rural benefits.

4. **Development Economists** (international) up to two consultants with up to 18 months. The Development Economist will support ABEC implementation through overall guidance and economic research as well as the preparation of ABEC key documents, such as annual ABEC Implementation Plans. The consultant will:

- Support the ABEC subcommittee in facilitating decision making related to the Implementation Plans;
- Develop content for ABEC subcommittee meetings depending on the requirements and demand of the governments and support the work of ABEC sector working groups;
- Synthesize sector analyses to date into an integrated report identifying lending and non-lending projects and policy reforms and actions, identify gaps and additional aspects of ABEC overall implementation and provide international best practices from implementation of economic corridors elsewhere;
- Review additional reports for quality and assist in seeking government feedback and finalization of the reports;
- Identify measures to strengthen harmonization of ABEC development with national plans and policy initiatives already envisaged under Eurasian Economic Union institutions;
- Develop detailed blueprint for the longer-term institutional arrangements for governance and management of ABEC development program;
- Identify and develop financing sources, both public and private, for ABEC development; and propose appropriate role of development partners; and
- Guide sector experts and ABEC institutional experts.

5. **Institutional Development and Regional Cooperation Experts** (national) up to four consultants with up to 46 months. The consultants will facilitate the smooth implementation of ABEC through coordination between all the stakeholders and facilitation of the work of the experts. The consultants will support the work of the ABEC subcommittee. The work would involve high-level coordination i) with the subcommittee members, ii) ABEC sector working groups and the pool of international and national experts, iii) between national, regional and city governments, iv) with the respective counterparts from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz Republic, v) with private sector representatives, vi) with other development partners, and vii) with ADB staff.

### **C. Short-term experts/resource persons**

6. Short-term experts/resource persons will be engaged to prepare presentations/analytical materials on specific topics, and to act as discussants/panelists on related policy issues.