



Technical Assistance Report

Project Number: 51291-001
Knowledge and Support Technical Assistance (KSTA)
June 2018

Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Integration Knowledge Partnerships and Research Network in Asia and the Pacific

This document is being disclosed to the public in accordance with ADB's Public Communications Policy 2011.

Asian Development Bank

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
ADB I	–	Asian Development Bank Institute
APRU	–	Association of Pacific Rim Universities
ASEAN	–	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ATTN	–	ADB–Asian Think Tanks Network
ERCD	–	Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department
RCI	–	regional cooperation and integration
TA	–	technical assistance

NOTE

In this report, “\$” refers to United States dollars.

Vice-President	Bambang Susantono, Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development
Director General	Yasuyuki Sawada, Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department (ERCD)
Director	Cyn-Young Park, Regional Cooperation and Integration Division, ERCD
Team leader	Aiko Kikkawa Takenaka, Economist, ERCD
Team member	Carol Ongchangco, Operations Coordinator, ERCD Aleli Rosario, Senior Economics Officer, ERCD Peter Rosenkranz, Economist, ERCD Pia Tenchavez, Senior Operations Assistant, ERCD

In preparing any country program or strategy, financing any project, or by making any designation of or reference to a particular territory or geographic area in this document, the Asian Development Bank does not intend to make any judgments as to the legal or other status of any territory or area.

CONTENTS

	Page
KNOWLEDGE AND SUPPORT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AT A GLANCE	
I. INTRODUCTION	1
II. ISSUES	1
III. THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	3
A. Impact and Outcome	3
B. Outputs, Methods, and Activities	3
C. Cost and Financing	4
D. Implementation Arrangements	5
IV. THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION	5
APPENDIXES	
1. Design and Monitoring Framework	6
2. Cost Estimates and Financing Plan	8
3. List of Linked Documents	9

KNOWLEDGE AND SUPPORT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AT A GLANCE

1. Basic Data		Project Number: 51291-001
Project Name	Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Integration Knowledge Partnerships and Research Network in Asia and the Pacific	Department/Division ERCD/ERCI
Nature of Activity	Policy Advice, Research and Development	Executing Agency Asian Development Bank
Modality	Regular	
Country	REG (All DMCs)	
2. Sector		ADB Financing (\$ million)
✓ Finance	Infrastructure finance and investment funds	0.25
Public sector management	Social protection initiatives	0.25
Total		0.50
3. Strategic Agenda		Climate Change Information
Inclusive economic growth (IEG)	Pillar 3: Extreme deprivation prevented and effects of shocks reduced (Social Protection)	Climate Change impact on the Project Low
Environmentally sustainable growth (ESG)	Disaster risk management	
Regional integration (RCI)	Pillar 4: Other regional public goods	
4. Drivers of Change		Gender Equity and Mainstreaming
Governance and capacity development (GCD)	Organizational development	No gender elements (NGE) ✓
Knowledge solutions (KNS)	Knowledge sharing activities	
Partnerships (PAR)	Bilateral institutions (not client government) Implementation Regional organizations	
5. Poverty and SDG Targeting		Location Impact
Geographic Targeting	No	Regional High
Household Targeting	No	
SDG Targeting	Yes	
SDG Goals	SDG8, SDG9, SDG17	
6. Risk Categorization		Low
7. Safeguard Categorization Safeguard Policy Statement does not apply		
8. Financing		
Modality and Sources		Amount (\$ million)
ADB		0.50
Knowledge and Support technical assistance: Technical Assistance Special Fund		0.50
Cofinancing		0.00
None		0.00
Counterpart		0.00
None		0.00
Total		0.50

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) will strengthen knowledge partnerships on emerging themes relevant to regional cooperation and integration (RCI) by encouraging and supporting research collaboration among policy research institutions in Asia and the Pacific. It will also support research networks by organizing technical workshops and high-level policy dialogues to produce policy papers and a book and/or report volume for policy makers in the region.

2. The TA is included in the 2018 annual work program for the Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department (ERCD) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to build policy research capacity in institutions in developing member countries.¹ The TA objectives are also linked to the Operational Plan for Regional Cooperation and Integration, 2016–2020, which focuses on (i) collective action for multicountry mechanisms promoting trade, investment, and labor mobility; (ii) regional public health, climate change, and disaster risk mitigation; and (iii) strong cooperation mechanisms requiring collective action.²

II. ISSUES

3. Regional integration has played a pivotal role economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific by expanding markets and boosting productivity. It also helps the development process become more inclusive, bringing with it important noneconomic benefits of security and political stability. The European Union is an example of a deeply interconnected region that has gained considerable efficiency through trading and the sharing of natural and human resources.

4. To continue taking advantage of the benefits of regional integration, policy makers must cooperate closely on the economic and related development agendas that are of mutual interest to countries in Asia and the Pacific. These agendas include economic issues such as trade and regional value chains, social issues such as human capital and inclusive growth, environmental concerns, and calls for regional actions that go beyond domestic or bilateral remedies.

5. Knowledge management helps policy makers respond to challenges and opportunities by generating and disseminating targeted research. Regional research collaboration among groups of experts who stay informed about the context, priorities, constraints, and challenges of regional and national policies is key to generating policy-relevant knowledge on RCI. Collaboration can consist of jointly identifying key policy agenda and research questions; sharing data, research methods, and techniques to conduct proposed research; and drafting and adopting policy recommendations based on research outcomes. Collaboration also generates synergies in making research outcomes broadly relevant, actionable, and effective. Knowledge management, in the context of the RCI agenda, will help individual countries identify regional solutions to region-wide concerns.

6. Although ADB's research efforts and publication of flagship reports and other research initiatives have increased the volume of literature on issues such as trade and value chains, the number and the quality of RCI research collaborations are insufficient in other areas, such as the following:

¹ The TA first appeared in the business opportunities section of ADB's website on 8 April 2018.

² ADB. 2016. *Operational Plan for Regional Cooperation and Integration, 2016–2020: Promoting Connectivity, Competitiveness, Regional Public Goods, and Collective Action for Asia and the Pacific*. Manila.

- (i) **Aging, demographic change, technology, and labor mobility.** Populations are aging and workforces are shrinking in many countries, including in emerging economies. These demographic changes will have an impact on labor markets and overall patterns of economic structure and growth, and on the ways in which labor moves across regional borders. Technology plays an increasing role in boosting the productivity of workers, including the elderly. Given diverse demographic profiles, regional efforts by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to plan human capital development and facilitate cross-border labor mobility will benefit the region. However, such efforts may require inputs from regional experts across multiple disciplines, including demography, public finance, and labor economics. To date, ADB's research on aging and demographic changes has focused on aging and the social security and/or care system or economic growth in general but none has approached the issue from the angle of regional collaboration.³
- (ii) **Disaster risk reduction frameworks.** While Asia and the Pacific is increasingly experiencing the impact of climate change and recurring natural disasters, the burden for coping and rebuilding falls mostly on small and vulnerable economies. The need to strengthen regional cooperation and the mechanism for sharing disaster risks is urgent. Innovative ways to mitigate risk have already emerged, such as disaster risk financing and insurance, which ADB and the World Bank are implementing in selected countries. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015–2030 recognizes the significant role of regional cooperation in addressing the increasing threat of disasters.⁴ The Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015–2030 provides broad policy direction, a long-term plan, and a 2-year action plan for regional cooperation and collaboration on building risk resilience.⁵ A study can look at how regional cooperation can help develop the region's resilience to disasters by (a) better understanding, assessing, and monitoring disaster risk; (b) strengthening disaster risk governance; and (c) improving coordination across relevant institutions, sectors, and countries.

7. Several reasons may explain why collaborative research on these topics has not taken place. First, a country's incentive to invest in regional cooperation and RCI knowledge can be stifled by the high cost of conducting the research on its own when the results could benefit other nations, especially those at its border. Second, since Asia and the Pacific consists of countries with diverse economic and social profiles, collaborative research requires significant technical expertise and in-depth knowledge of the region and its countries. This is especially true if the issue at stake has broad social and cultural implications. Third, implementation of joint research typically requires some type of preexisting relationships and partnerships, which are scarce in the research topics highlighted in para. 6 (i)–(ii). Lastly, the technical capacity of research institutions in the region varies substantially, with some such institutions in developing economies lacking the resources to conduct joint RCI research. As a result, efforts to conduct research that identifies good practices and innovative regional solutions to RCI themes tend to be carried out in a stand-alone or fragmented manner. Where collaboration exists, it tends to focus on sharing country-specific analysis of a common topic but falls short of joint research that aims to provide regional

³ ADB. 2017. *Asian Development Outlook 2017: Transcending the Middle-Income Challenge*. Manila; and D. Park, S. Lee, and A. Mason, eds. 2012. *Aging, Economic Growth, and Old-Age Security in Asia*. Manila: ADB; Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, United Kingdom and Northampton, Massachusetts: Edward Elgar Publishing.

⁴ United Nations. 2015. *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015–2030*. Geneva.

⁵ United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. 2016. *Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015–2030*. Geneva.

solutions and recommendations on the regional agenda. The situation requires proactive promotion of RCI-themed research partnerships across Asia and the Pacific.

8. ADB is addressing the challenge by building general networking platforms among research institutions. Through the implementation of TA for the Provision of Knowledge Products and Services to Developing Member Countries through Systematic Knowledge Sharing, ADB helped establish the ADB–Asian Think Tanks Network (ATTN), a networking platform for government-affiliated think tanks in Asia and the Pacific.⁶ Similarly, the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), in partnership with the Think Tanks and Civil Society Program of the University of Pennsylvania, hosts the Asia Think Tanks Secretariat, organizes the annual Asia Think Tank Summit, and maintains the Think Asia portal that serves more than 100 institutions. As the network of think tanks strengthened, some think tanks expressed desire to do joint research work with ADB on topics of mutual interest and to play a policy advisory role in the region.

9. A few initiatives to promote research on the regional agenda by forging collaboration among research institutions exist, but can be strengthened. Some institutions with regional presence have expressed interest for such an endeavor, including ADBI and the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU), which has a membership of 45 universities. The resulting policy-relevant studies would benefit developing member countries, policy makers, and ADB's regional departments, as they could provide basis for regional solutions to cross-border issues.

III. THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A. Impact and Outcome

10. The TA is aligned with the following impact: policy makers are provided with enhanced knowledge on emerging themes on RCI (footnote 2). Improved cooperation among research institutions helps enhance the quality and quantity of knowledge, which creates more and better-informed policy makers and development practitioners who will prepare regional responses to RCI challenges.

11. The TA will have the following outcome: knowledge collaboration on selected RCI themes among policy research institutions in ADB member countries strengthened.⁷ Research institutions in Asia and the Pacific are expected to build networks and forge partnerships among themselves by taking part in joint RCI research, which offers opportunities to interact and share research ideas, progress, and outcomes. These institutions will also gain experience in implementing regional collaborative research whose outputs will support a collective response to cross-border issues. Through policy dialogues under this TA, institutions not directly involved in research may also benefit from stronger research capacities and networks.

B. Outputs, Methods, and Activities

12. **Output 1: Collaborative regional cooperation and integration research conducted.** The TA will facilitate the inception and implementation of two joint research initiatives on RCI themes in collaboration with policy research institutions in the region. Each initiative will produce several papers analyzing the choice of RCI theme, with an aim to identify regional solutions and

⁶ ADB. Regional: Provision of Knowledge Products and Services to Developing Member Countries through Systematic Knowledge Sharing. <https://www.adb.org/projects/46244-001/main>; and ADB–Asian Think Tanks Network. <http://www.adb-asianthinktanks.org>. The TA team held five regional forums that provided a networking platform for think tanks and opportunities to share knowledge on innovation, inclusive growth, urban planning, and infrastructure.

⁷ The design and monitoring framework is in Appendix 1.

policy options. ADB and the APRU have identified two themes for research collaboration: (i) aging, demographic changes, and labor mobility; and (ii) disaster risk-sharing mechanisms. The project team will identify the details of the research themes and potential partner institutions in consultation with the organizations supporting regional research platforms, including the APRU and ADBI, prioritizing the issues discussed in regional forums such as ASEAN and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.⁸ It will hold one inception workshop per theme for key research institutions to initiate discussions that would generate innovative research concepts and methodologies that would take full advantage of the collaborators' expertise. For this workshop, the project team will launch an open call for submissions of innovative research from scholars. ADB will lead a group of experts in conducting an anonymous review to select papers for presentation.

13. The project team is anticipating carrying out a typical joint research initiative in collaboration with multiple institutions in the region.⁹ Participating research institutions can be government think tanks, public or private universities, or other research institutions that conduct policy-relevant social and economic development research and have a proven track record of research activities in identified themes. ERCD and its Regional Cooperation and Integration Division will also be part of the research team.

14. **Output 2: Developing member country researchers actively participated and deepened knowledge on the research themes.** Technical workshops will allow research progress and draft research papers to be presented and evaluated by research project members and invited external experts, where needed. In addition, the project team will hold two high-level policy forums to disseminate research findings and policy recommendations. It will collaborate with the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and ASEAN secretariats, Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Institute, and other similar regional bodies in organizing dialogues to maximize exposure and participation. The project team will make an effort to engage and encourage ATTN members to participate in research.

15. **Output 3: Policy papers and book and/or report volume printed and disseminated.** Research papers and policy recommendations will be published as policy briefs and as an electronic book and/or report. Electronic publication will be the primary channel of dissemination, but some papers may be printed for targeted policy makers and institutions and disseminated based on demand. These documents will be disseminated to a wider regional audience through outreach activities (at least one event per publication) and social media and will be made available through the websites of ADB, ADBI, APRU, and other participating research institutions. The project team will maintain the ATTN website and use it as a platform for dissemination.¹⁰ Other dissemination activities will be tied to related ADB and ERCD events.

C. Cost and Financing

16. The TA budget is estimated to cost \$500,000, which will be financed on a grant basis by ADB's Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF 6). The key expenditure items are listed in Appendix 2.

⁸ The project team may consider running two parallel research initiatives simultaneously to maximize efforts to identify innovative research and policy solutions.

⁹ The project team could explore knowledge partnerships that are consistent with ADB's staff instructions (ADB. 2017. Staff Instruction on Business Processes for Knowledge Partnerships under Technical Assistance Operations. *Compendium of Staff Instructions*. Manila) if, in the process of implementation, such an arrangement would be more appropriate.

¹⁰ The project team will enhance and update ATTN's existing website.

D. Implementation Arrangements

17. ADB will administer the TA. ERCD will select, supervise, and evaluate consultants; organize workshops; and evaluate the accomplishment of outputs. On selected topics, ERCD will provide staff to act as resource persons for the workshops. It will collaborate with research institutions in the region for joint research work in the chosen areas.

18. The implementation arrangements are summarized in the table.

Implementation Arrangements			
Aspects	Arrangements		
Indicative implementation period	July 2018–June 2020		
Executing agency	ADB		
Consultants	To be selected and engaged by ADB		
	ICS	International (7 person-months)	\$96,000
	ICS	National (40 person-months)	\$106,000
	ICS (if with honoraria)	International and national resource persons (1 person-month total)	\$30,000
Disbursement	The TA resources will be disbursed following ADB's <i>Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook</i> (2010, as amended from time to time).		

ADB = Asian Development Bank, ICS = individual consultant selection, TA = technical assistance.
Source: Asian Development Bank estimates.

19. **Consulting services.** ADB will engage the consultants following the ADB Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and its associated project administration instructions and/or staff instructions.¹¹ ADB will consider lump-sum payments and output-based contracts for consulting services. Disbursement under the TA will follow ADB's *Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook* (2010, as amended from time to time).

20. **Social media and website.** The project team will update and maintain the existing ATTN website regularly.¹² Before project closing, it will explore other sources of financing for website maintenance if there is strong demand for the website's continued existence.

IV. THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION

21. The President, acting under the authority delegated by the Board, has approved the provision of technical assistance not exceeding the equivalent of \$500,000 on a grant basis for Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Integration Knowledge Partnerships and Research Network in Asia and the Pacific, and hereby reports this action to the Board.

¹¹ Terms of Reference for Consultants (accessible from the list of linked documents in Appendix 3).

¹² The project team will collaborate with the Office of Information Systems and Technology to ensure that proper ADB information technology security controls are implemented.

DESIGN AND MONITORING FRAMEWORK

Impact the TA is Aligned with Policy makers are provided with enhanced knowledge on emerging themes on RCI (Operational Plan for Regional Cooperation and Integration, 2016–2020) ^a			
Results Chain	Performance Indicators with Targets and Baselines	Data Sources and Reporting Mechanisms	Risks
<p>Outcome Knowledge collaboration on selected RCI themes among policy research institutions in ADB member countries strengthened.^b</p>	<p>By 2020</p> <p>a. Three research institutions engaged in joint research work per theme (2017 baseline: 0)</p> <p>b. Paper accepted for presentation in at least one international peer-reviewed academic conference, or at least one manuscript undergoing the selection process for publication in a peer-reviewed journal (2017 baseline: 0)</p> <p>c. At least one research plan drafted and implemented by collaborating institutions per theme (2017 baseline: 0)</p> <p>d. At least two electronic dissemination and two related events done to reach policy makers and other audiences (2017 baseline: 1 TA event, 1 e-publication)</p> <p>e. Downloads of published papers increased at least 20% after 2 years (2017 baseline: 947 downloads for a publication after 2.5 years)</p>	<p>a. Research work plan, TA progress report, letter of acceptance to participating in research</p> <p>b. Websites of journals and conferences</p> <p>c. TA progress report, research work plans, evaluation or feedback from partner institutions</p> <p>d. TA progress report, feedback from partner institutions</p> <p>e. Web counters of ADB and partner institutions, feedback from partner institutions</p>	<p>Participating research institutions may decide not to extend the collaboration needed to achieve the defined outcome.</p> <p>Partner institutions disagree among themselves about the direction of research.</p>
<p>Outputs 1. Collaborative regional cooperation and integration research conducted</p>	<p>1. Two research collaborations established (2017 baseline: 0)</p>	<p>1. Number of research papers drafted under joint research, pre- and post-survey of collaborating DMC researchers</p>	<p>Lack of data and information in some DMCs may limit the scope of proposed research.</p> <p>Collaborating research institutions identify other priorities and decide to decrease or end engagement.</p>

Results Chain	Performance Indicators with Targets and Baselines	Data Sources and Reporting Mechanisms	Risks
2. Developing member country researchers actively participated and deepened knowledge on the research themes	2. One inception workshop, two technical workshops, and two policy dialogues held with at least 10 institutions represented in each workshop and 25 institutions for each policy dialogue (2017 baseline: at least 27 international institutions attended ATTN annual forum)	2. TA progress report, workshop proceedings, BTORs	Representatives from the DMCs are not at the appropriate levels because of conflict in schedules.
3. Policy papers and book and/or report volume printed and disseminated	3a. At least two policy papers and one book and/or report volume published electronically and disseminated through outreach events (2017 baseline: no book and/or report volume from ATTN annual forum) 3b. Website maintained and updated regularly (2017 baseline: website maintained)	3a. Publication, TA progress report, BTORs 3b. TA report, website	Submission or completion of research papers is delayed. There are no materials to update the website.

Key Activities with Milestones

1. Collaborative regional cooperation and integration research conducted

- 1.1 Inception workshops held (2nd theme: November 2018)
- 1.2 Collaborative research with knowledge institutions or experts carried out (1st theme: August 2018; 2nd theme: January 2019)
- 1.3 Draft research submitted (1st theme: October 2018; 2nd theme: April 2019)
- 1.4 Finalized research output (1st theme: February 2019; 2nd theme: July 2019)

2. Developing member country researchers actively participated and deepened knowledge on the research themes

- 2.1 Technical workshop held to discuss research progress (November 2018 and May 2019)
- 2.2 Internal technical workshop held to discuss draft research (March 2019 and August 2019)
- 2.3 High-level policy dialogues held (April 2019 and October 2019)
- 2.4 Dissemination workshops held (June 2019, August 2019, and May 2020)

3. Policy papers and book and/or report volume electronically published and disseminated

- 3.1 Policy papers published (1st theme: May 2019; 2nd theme: November 2019)
- 3.2 Book and/or report volume published (April 2020)
- 3.3 Website maintained and updated (July 2018 onward)

Inputs

ADB: \$500,000

Assumptions for Partner Financing

Not Applicable

ADB = Asian Development Bank, ATTN = ADB-Asian Think Tanks Network, BTOR = back-to-office report, DMC = developing member country, RCI = regional cooperation and integration, TA = technical assistance.

^a ADB. 2016. *Operational Plan for Regional Cooperation and Integration, 2016–2020: Promoting Connectivity, Competitiveness, Regional Public Goods, and Collective Action for Asia and the Pacific*. Manila.

^b The two themes for research collaboration are (i) aging, demographic changes, and labor mobility; and (ii) disaster risk-sharing mechanisms.

Source: Asian Development Bank.

COST ESTIMATES AND FINANCING PLAN
(\$'000)

Item	Amount
Asian Development Bank^a	
1. Consultants ^b	
a. Remuneration and per diem	
i. International consultants	96.0
ii. National consultants	106.0
b. International and local travel	30.0
2. Printed external publications ^c	10.0
3. Training, seminars, and conferences	
a. Facilitators and/or resource persons ^d	30.0
b. Travel cost of ADB staff acting as a resource person	20.0
c. Venue rental and related facilities ^d	40.0
d. Participants ^e	129.0
e. Representation ^d	5.0
4. Contingencies	34.0
Total	500.0

ADB = Asian Development Bank.

^a Financed by ADB's Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF 6).

^b Lump-sum payments and output-based contracts will be considered under the technical assistance.

^c Digital publication costs for each of the papers and the book and/or report volume. Print publication will be on demand.

^d ADB (Budget, Personnel, and Management Systems Department; and Strategy and Policy Department). 2013. *Use of Bank Resources: Regional Technical Assistance and Technical Assistance vs. Internal Administrative Expenses Budget. Memorandum*. 26 June (internal).

^e Pertains to international participants from the think tank network and includes per diem, airfare, and miscellaneous travel expenses. Local participants from the academe and other research institutions will also be invited to the conferences.

Source: Asian Development Bank estimates.

LIST OF LINKED DOCUMENTS

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/LinkedDocs/?id=51291-001-TAReport>

1. Terms of Reference for Consultants