



# Regional: Facilitating Knowledge for Innovation and Technology Cooperation to Accelerate Development

Project Name	Facilitating Knowledge for Innovation and Technology Cooperation to Accelerate Development
Project Number	52309-001
Country	RegionalIndiaIndonesiaPhilippines
Project Status	Proposed
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance
Source of Funding / Amount	
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions Partnerships
Sector / Subsector	Information and communication technology - ICT strategy and policy, and capacity development Public sector management - Public administration
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	No gender elements
Description	The knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) will support the Asian Development Bank's (ADB's) efforts to develop human capital to advance and share knowledge for innovation and technology adoption and diffusion in its developing member countries (DMCs). Aligned with ADB's Strategy 2030, the TA emphasizes _promoting the use of innovative technology_ and _strengthening knowledge services_, to accelerate and sustain economic development in the DMCs, by addressing increasingly complex development challenges facing the region. The proposed TA is included in the 2019 work plan of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department. It is in line with the President's Planning Directions for 2019 to deliver quality operations through incorporating new approaches, knowledge creation and sharing with clients, advanced technologies, collaboration, and innovation. This TA will support the implementation of the Korea-Asia and Pacific Tech Corp (KTC) Program which underlines the cooperation agreement ADB signed in May 2018 with the Ministry of Strategy and Finance of the Republic of Korea. The KTC program will engage experts from Asia and the Pacific, including Korea to help build the capacity in ADB's DMCs to learn new skills and adopt innovation. The KTC program is being implemented in Latin American countries in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank.
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	Developing countries have experienced slower efficiency gains and laggard technological absorption that could undermine their progress on the sustainable development goals (SDGs) since the global financial crisis in 2008. A 2014 ADB study indicated that developing economies in Asia significantly lag behind advanced nations on the four pillars of the knowledge economy, i.e. innovation, education and skills, information and communications technology (ICT), and the economic incentive and institutional regime. This has affected their ability to fully utilize recent technological breakthroughs due to: (i) high costs in tapping innovation; (ii) concentration of technology and innovation among few firms in select sectors and countries; (iii) relying on external expertise due to lack of local technical and skilled resources; and (iv) constraint to attract affordable and skilled partners to customize the technologies. The government's role in providing an enabling environment to use better technology, spur innovation, and build human capital is key to helping DMCs achieve and sustain long-term economic growth. ADB can offer these DMCs the opportunity to leverage the right technologies and develop their absorptive capacity by (i) improving human capital formation, i.e. innovation capacity together with financial, institutional and governing mechanisms, and (ii) attracting skilled and experienced partners to help them build and customize the innovative ideas. Lessons from past ADB projects suggest that a single country or single topic-oriented knowledge sharing program is more effective, rather than broad one-time South-South learning on topics such as innovation. This TA focuses on providing capacity to DMCs on innovation and technology through knowledge immersion. Knowledge immersion consists of knowledge transfer-focused consulting which can be done through codification (documents, repositories, databases etc.), personalization (interaction), and a knowledge-absorption approach through exploration (trial and error, high learner control etc.) and instruction (i.e. deductive, programmed low-learner control etc.). The potential for knowledge immersion is most feasible for DMCs in South and Southeast Asia as they require support to convert to a knowledge-based economy through innovation. For instance, technological readiness level in India and Indonesia remains low, despite several innovations in these countries, suggesting that the benefits of innovative activities are not shared with peers. Middle income countries particularly in this region have high demand for knowledge intensive operations from ADB. For example, Teach for Philippines, a local non-governmental organization, that works with the government in recruiting teachers and modernizing teaching techniques, seeks an expert to develop an end-to-end data management and client relationship portal. Through knowledge immersion, DMCs can learn from Korea's experience in achieving high income status through a systematic knowledge-based economic development. The Republic of Korea has supported ADB through the Republic of Korea e-Asia and Knowledge Partnership Fund since 2006. The Fund has financed knowledge sharing in ADB projects such as Myanmar's e-Government Master Plan, Bangladesh's IT Parks for Employment and Innovation and the Asia Leadership Program (ALP) regional knowledge sharing through communities of leaders. The ALP demonstrated that active learning through field visits, and simulation exercises is far more effective than passive learning through keynote speeches and panel presentations. Strongly aligned with the objectives of the Republic of Korea e-Asia and Knowledge Partnership Fund, the TA proposes to access this fund to (i) mobilize experts to support identified development needs in DMCs and associated projects, and (ii) capture and share the emerging best practices and lessons to help with innovation scale-up and replication. The knowledge immersion will help build the necessary local human capital skills and facilitate knowledge sharing to develop long-term local capacity in DMCs, initially targeted for South and Southeast Asia DMCs.
Impact	Use of innovative technologies in DMCs promoted
Outcome	DMCs' capacity to adopt innovation and technology advancements in development priorities enhanced
Outputs	Knowledge immersion in DMCs supported Replicable practices and lessons learned disseminated
Geographical Location	India - Nation-wide; Indonesia - Nation-wide; Philippines - Nation-wide
Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects	

Environmental Aspects
Involuntary Resettlement
Indigenous Peoples
Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation
During Project Design
During Project Implementation

Business Opportunities	
Consulting Services	Detailed terms of reference will be drafted together with the counterpart agency from the DMC. ADB will engage individual experts as consultants and carry out procurement following the ADB Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and its associated project administration instructions and/or staff instructions.

Responsible ADB Officer	Vivek Raman
Responsible ADB Department	Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department
Responsible ADB Division	SDCC-KC
Executing Agencies	Asian Development Bank 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550, Philippines

Timetable	
Concept Clearance	15 Nov 2019
Fact Finding	-
MRM	-
Approval	-
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	20 Nov 2019

Project Page	<a href="https://www.adb.org/projects/52309-001/main">https://www.adb.org/projects/52309-001/main</a>
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