



Georgia: Silk Road Forum

Project Name	Silk Road Forum				
Project Number	53311-001				
Country	Georgia				
Project Status	Active				
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance				
Source of Funding / Amount	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>TA 9784-GEO: Silk Road Forum</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Technical Assistance Special Fund</td> <td>US\$ 150,000.00</td> </tr> </table>	TA 9784-GEO: Silk Road Forum		Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 150,000.00
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Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth Regional integration				
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions Private sector development				
Sector / Subsector	Agriculture, natural resources and rural development - Agro-industry, marketing, and trade Energy - Large hydropower generation - Renewable energy generation - wind Finance - Banking systems and nonbank financial institutions - Infrastructure finance and investment funds Industry and trade - Large and medium industries - Trade and services Transport - Multimodal logistics				
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	No gender elements				
Description	<p>This Technical Assistance is proposed to support Georgia's government to organize and hold a Silk Road Forum (the Forum) planned for 22-23 October 2019 in Tbilisi, Georgia. The Forum's goal is to: (i) discuss ways to enhance regional cooperation through cross-border transport and energy connectivity, trade facilitation and commerce along the Silk Road; (ii) help coordinate transport infrastructure investments and policy interventions aimed at achieving uninterrupted flow of goods through Silk Road corridors; and (iii) stimulate regional trade and commerce by identifying investment opportunities and facilitating business-to-business meetings and public-private dialogue.</p> <p>The Forum will be opened by the Prime Minister of Georgia and is expected to attract about 800 high-level government officials, private sector stakeholders, representatives of development partner institutions, business associations, and other relevant organizations from ADB member countries. The Forum will consist of several moderated sector panels attended by high profile guest speakers and business-to-business meetings. During the Forum, the information on investment opportunities in Georgia will be disseminated through thematic panels and the investment catalogue to be distributed to the participants.</p> <p>The government has requested ADB to mobilize necessary financing in an expedited manner to ensure preparatory activities for the Silk Road Forum planned for 22-23 October 2019 start on time and proceed smoothly. The proposed TA falls under the capacity development and policy advice categories given that the Forum will serve as a venue for knowledge sharing and dialogue among ADB's developing member countries.</p>				
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>Starting from early 90s, the concept of reviving the Silk Road, a historical trade route extending from Asia to Europe, has been gaining increasing importance among the countries in the Asia region. The route is a natural economic corridor that can play important role in the process of both improving Asia's connectivity to the global economy and accelerating the economic integration within the region. Major initiatives put forward in the past to help facilitate this vision of Silk Road include the international Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA), initiated in 1993 as European Union TA program; the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation program (CAREC), launched in 2001 with support from ADB; and the Belt and Road initiative announced by the government of the People's Republic of China in 2013.</p> <p>Georgia, a part of the Silk Road, has been rediscovering the advantages of its geographic location after the break-up of the Soviet Union. Since its independence in 1991, the country's successive governments have supported the idea of reviving the Silk Road trade route through active participation in various international initiatives aimed at improving connectivity and facilitating uninterrupted flow of goods and services through Georgia. Important regional projects implemented in Georgia during the last two decades include extension of oil and gas pipelines from Azerbaijan and Central Asia to global markets through Georgia; construction of new power transmission lines allowing for regional power trade; launching of Baku Tbilisi Kars railway, a regional rail link that completes a transport corridor linking Central Asia and People's Republic of China to Europe; and ongoing expansion of the strategic East-West highway connecting the land locked-countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia to Georgia's Black Sea ports.</p> <p>As efforts continue to bring Georgia's transport and energy infrastructure to modern international standards, Georgia also aspires to firmly place itself within the global value chain, logistics networks, power trading mechanisms and tourism routes by becoming a regional transport, logistics, energy and tourism hub. Georgia's location at the crossroads of Asia and Europe and free trade regimes with the People's Republic of China, European Union, Turkey, and most of the countries within the Commonwealth of Independent States, provide significant opportunities for Georgia to become an important regional trade hub. ADB is well-positioned to support Georgia's aspiration through ongoing investments in Georgia's transport and energy sectors and technical assistance. ADB is among Georgia's largest development partners and is currently extending support to rehabilitate and upgrade the strategic East-West and South-North road corridors. The East-West highway is a natural continuation of CAREC's corridor 2 linking People's Republic of China, Afghanistan and the countries of Caucasus and the Central Asia to European markets and beyond. The North-South highway links Georgia and Armenia to Russia.</p> <p>Georgia, with ADB's technical support and participation, has initiated and successfully implemented three important regional forums, which brought together more than 2,000 delegates from more than 60 countries representing both public and private sectors. The Georgia Investment Forum, Silk Road Forum, and Tbilisi Belt and Road Forum were held in Tbilisi in October 2014, October 2015 and November 2017 respectively. Transport infrastructure development, cross-border trade facilitation, energy trade, and investment opportunities in Georgia were among the key topics of presentations, discussions and business-to-business meetings. CAREC strategy 2030 was presented and discussed at a panel chaired by Vice President, Operations 1 during the Belt and Road Forum. As the result, Georgia has established itself as a facilitator and host for important international forums dedicated to regional cooperation and cross-border trade and investment.</p> <p>By extending further technical assistance for the proposed Silk Road Forum in Tbilisi, ADB will support Georgia as a venue for policy makers, private sector, development partners and other stakeholders to discuss the ways to deepen regional cooperation along the Silk Road through improved transport and energy links, trade facilitation, and cross-border investment. Such support would be fully aligned with the current Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) 2014-2018 and the draft 2019-2023 CPS, both of which emphasize Georgia's strong potential as a regional trade and logistics hub and importance of ADB assistance for materializing such potential.</p>				
Impact	Economic engagement between Georgia and ADB-member countries in Asia Increased.				

Project Outcome	
Description of Outcome	Information about investment opportunities in Georgia disseminated internationally.
Progress Toward Outcome	
Implementation Progress	
Description of Project Outputs	Silk Road Forum held.
Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)	
Geographical Location	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	
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Consulting Services	The TA will support recruitment of an international consulting firm with expertise in international conference outreach activities, sector experience in the areas of regional cooperation in cross-border transport, energy connectivity and trade facilitation, as well as knowledge of Georgia's economic profile and business climate. The firm will carry out the following activities: (i) Conducting effective research and outreach to identify and invite high profile moderators and speakers for the panels of the Forum; (ii) developing program and synopsis for the 5 panel sessions of the Forum; (iii) developing the content for the official Forum website; and (iv) preparing a Silk Road Forum report, which shall include Forum descriptions, analysis, lessons learned and key recommendations to the Client for future reference. A national individual consultant with event management experience will be recruited to: (i) Coordinate on site performance of event management firm engaged by Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development (MOESD) for preparatory activities for the Forum; (ii) assist MOESD and ADB in procuring goods and services necessary for the Forum and ensure conformance with ADB's procurement policy and regulations and rules related to placement of ADB insignia and other ADB references on banners and print materials; and (iii) coordinate panel schedules and logistics during the Forum sessions and oversee the process of removal and storing of Forum installations, including banners, posters, screens etc. and smooth hand-over of the Forum venues. The firm will be recruited through Single-Source Selection method (SSS). SSS was selected given that the consulting assignment is estimated at below \$50,000 and there is urgency to recruit the consultants by early August 2019 to start preparatory activities for the Forum. The MOESD proposed and ADB agrees to recruit PricewaterhouseCoopers, Georgia, to conduct outreach activities. The proposed firm holds a strong track record in international event organization and has sector experience in the areas of regional cooperation in cross-border transport, energy connectivity and trade facilitation, as well as knowledge of Georgia's economic profile and business climate. A national individual consultant, with inputs of 3 person months, will be recruited on a competitive basis, to coordinate the preparatory activities. ADB will engage the consultants and carry out procurement following the ADB Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and its associated staff instructions.
Procurement	The TA will also cover the cost of procurement of goods, including participant bags, banners, posters, print materials, rental of lighting systems, floral decorations, video shooting and live streaming services. The TA resources will be disbursed following ADB Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook (2010, as amended from time to time).

Responsible ADB Officer	George Kiziria
Responsible ADB Department	Central and West Asia Department
Responsible ADB Division	Georgia Resident Mission
Executing Agencies	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia 2 Sanapiro Str., Tbilisi, 0105

Timetable	
Concept Clearance	-
Fact Finding	15 Jul 2019 to 16 Jul 2019
MRM	-
Approval	09 Aug 2019
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	09 Aug 2019

TA 9784-GEO

Financing Plan/TA Utilization						Cumulative Disbursements		
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
150,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	150,000.00	-	0.00

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/53311-001/main
Request for Information	http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=53311-001
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