



Regional: Strengthening Regional Cooperation on Skills Development under the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program

Project Name	Strengthening Regional Cooperation on Skills Development under the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program					
Project Number	54234-001					
Country	Regional					
Project Status	Active					
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance					
Source of Funding / Amount	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>TA 6806-REG: Strengthening Regional Cooperation on Skills Development under the CAREC Program</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction</td> <td>US\$ 2.00 million</td> </tr> </table>		TA 6806-REG: Strengthening Regional Cooperation on Skills Development under the CAREC Program		Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction	US\$ 2.00 million
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Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth Regional integration					
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions Partnerships Private sector development					
Sector / Subsector	Education - Education sector development - Technical and vocational education and training					
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Some gender elements					
Description	The TA will help CAREC countries achieving a stronger regional integration conducive for higher, more inclusive and sustainable economic growth through improvements in the standards and harmonization in HE and TVET and promotion of greater skill mobility while facilitating evidence-based decision-making process.					
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>There is a clear gap in the CAREC Program on the Human Development Cluster (as part of the CAREC 2030s five clusters) and the need to build up the ADB's scoping study recommendations on Education and Skills Development Under the CAREC Program, by focusing on regional cooperation to strengthen skills development at Higher Education (HE) and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) levels through adopting the long-life learning paradigm acknowledging skill mobility as part of skills development. The latter has become so important because labor markets in the region have extended beyond borders, while the existing skills mobility channels are inefficient and lack transparency with a limited scope to support a large-scale deployment through Government-to-Government (G-to-G and Business-to-Business (B-to-B) recruitments, resulting in the Private Recruitment Agency (PRA) as the most widely used, while it remains unclear, costly and unable to fully protect migrant workers. Moreover, to be able to conduct a series of assessments on the job and labor market in the region comprehensively and regularly, there is a need to have a labor market information system for monitoring and evaluation.</p> <p>Improving connectivity in the soft infrastructure to strengthen the connectivity in the hard infrastructure of the road, energy and others, is key for regional integration. This is really needed for CAREC region, which is still among the least connected in the world. The HE and TVET systems in the region face significant challenges and as skills development worldwide improve fast, there is a risk that the region could be left behind and suffering from a brain drain as its talented work force are attracted elsewhere. Therefore, the region needs to strengthen its national, regional and global skills standards to be more competitive to provide a strong basis for more foreign direct investments and people-to-people connections. The resulting improved skills development and overall people connectivity will bring positive ramifications to the economy through increased regional and global trades and investments, as well as developments of various economic corridors with their special economic zones (SEZs) as part of the global production networks and value chains.</p>					
Impact	Human development improved through increased quality, mobility, and productivity of the labor force of the CAREC countries					
Project Outcome						
Description of Outcome	Regional cooperation and integration in the CAREC region strengthened through better utilization and allocation of human resources in line with the CAREC 2030 and Strategy 2030 Operational Plan					
Progress Toward Outcome						
Implementation Progress						
Description of Project Outputs	Standardization and harmonization in higher education strengthened Standardization and harmonization in TVET strengthened Governance and regulation of recruitment systems improved Labor market database and information system developed					
Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)						
Geographical Location	Regional					
Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects						
Environmental Aspects						
Involuntary Resettlement						
Indigenous Peoples						

Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation	
During Project Design	ASEAN University Network, University of Tsukuba
During Project Implementation	
Business Opportunities	
Consulting Services	A total of 305 person-months (pm) of international firm (66 pm) under quality-based selection and individual consulting services (71 pm of international consultants and 168 pm of national consultants) will be provided using time-based and lumpsum or output-based contracts. International and national consultants may include researcher and data analysts; education, training, and IT experts; publications and/or website developers; and event organizers. ADB will also engage international and national experts, which may include ADB staff, as resource persons to make presentations and/or to facilitate discussions at workshops, trainings, focus group discussions, seminar, conferences, and other events. ADB will engage individual consultants and international firm following the ADB Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and its associated project administration instructions and/or staff instructions.
Procurement	The purchase of software, data, and equipment will follow ADB Procurement Policy and Procurement Regulations for ADB Borrowers (2017, as amended from time to time).
Responsible ADB Officer	Sugiyarto, Guntur
Responsible ADB Department	Central and West Asia Department
Responsible ADB Division	Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Div, CWRD
Executing Agencies	Asian Development Bank 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550, Philippines
Timetable	
Concept Clearance	19 May 2021
Fact Finding	03 May 2021 to 31 May 2021
MRM	-
Approval	14 Oct 2021
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	09 Jul 2021

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Financing Plan/TA Utilization						Cumulative Disbursements		
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
0.00	2,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000,000.00	-	0.00

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/54234-001/main
Request for Information	http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=54234-001
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