



# Regional: Support for Forward-Looking Trade Facilitation Measures in Asia and the Pacific

Project Name	Support for Forward-Looking Trade Facilitation Measures in Asia and the Pacific				
Project Number	54384-001				
Country	Regional				
Project Status	Proposed				
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance				
Source of Funding / Amount	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>TA: Support for Forward-Looking Trade Facilitation in Asia and the Pacific</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Technical Assistance Special Fund</td> <td>US\$ 750,000.00</td> </tr> </table>	TA: Support for Forward-Looking Trade Facilitation in Asia and the Pacific		Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 750,000.00
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Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 750,000.00				
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth Regional integration				
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions Partnerships Private sector development				
Sector / Subsector	Industry and trade - Trade and services Public sector management - Public administration				
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Some gender elements				
Description	The knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) will support trade facilitation implementation in developing member countries (DMCs) and in the Asian Development Bank (ADB) through research and development, capacity building, and collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) for the conduct of the Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APTFF). This will synergize the efforts of regional departments and the private sector to improve and facilitate cross-border trade.				
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	It is well documented that trade facilitation measures help raise efficiency and transparency, lowering trade costs and boosting trade flows. Full implementation of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement can reduce trade costs by 9% on average, or up to 16% if digital trade facilitation measures are implemented. While economies in Asia and the Pacific are steadily implementing trade facilitation measures, much remains to be done. Overall trade facilitation implementation in the region increased from 49% in 2017 to about 60% in 2019. But implementation rates vary across subregions and across measures. The COVID-19 pandemic is also having a major impact on trade and is exposing vulnerabilities in the world trading system. Digital transformation in trade and trade facilitation will likely accelerate in the aftermath of the pandemic. As trade facilitation is one of the main strategic and operational priorities in ADB's subregional programs, these priorities can be further supported when post-COVID-19 policy implications for trade facilitation are taken into consideration. The transition to the _new normal_ will require a knowledge base for forward-looking trade facilitation policy making as well as enhanced capacity building for stakeholders, including customs and trade officials. DMCs will benefit from building more resilient supply chains with adequate digital infrastructure and regulatory systems to implement digital trade facilitation. It is also important to promote greater access to trade finance for MSMEs disproportionately impacted by economic fallout. Countries should focus on building capacity for better coordination and cooperation among all stakeholders.				
Impact	Opportunities for trade and trade facilitation agenda advanced. Economic opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises and other vulnerable groups increased.				
Outcome	Capacity of DMCs to develop policies and practices on trade facilitation improved.				
Outputs	Best practices and benefits of trade facilitation and trade finance advocated and disseminated.				
Geographical Location	Regional				
<b>Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects</b>					
Environmental Aspects					
Involuntary Resettlement					
Indigenous Peoples					
Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation					
During Project Design					
During Project Implementation					
<b>Business Opportunities</b>					
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				
Procurement	No procurement component in the TA.				
Responsible ADB Officer	Kim, Kijin				

Responsible ADB Department	Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department
Responsible ADB Division	ERCI
Executing Agencies	Asian Development Bank 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550, Philippines

Timetable	
Concept Clearance	14 Oct 2020
Fact Finding	-
MRM	-
Approval	-
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	25 Nov 2020

Project Page	<a href="https://www.adb.org/projects/54384-001/main">https://www.adb.org/projects/54384-001/main</a>
Request for Information	<a href="http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=54384-001">http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=54384-001</a>
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