



# Regional: Strengthening Institutional Mechanism of the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Program

Project Name	Strengthening Institutional Mechanism of the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Program		
Project Number	54392-001		
Country	RegionalBangladeshBhutanIndiaMaldivesMyanmarNepalSri Lanka		
Project Status	Proposed		
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance		
Source of Funding / Amount	TA: Strengthening Institutional Mechanism of the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Program		
	Technical Assistance Special Fund		US\$ 900,000.00
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth Regional integration		
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions Private sector development		
Sector / Subsector	Energy - Energy sector development and institutional reform Industry and trade - Industry and trade sector development Transport - Multimodal logistics - Road transport (non-urban) - Transport policies and institutional development		
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Some gender elements		
Description	The TA will be aligned with the impact of economic cooperation and integration between SASEC member countries, and between SASEC and its neighboring subregions accelerated. The proposed outcome will be the implementation of SASEC programs, projects, and initiatives accelerated. The outcome will be achieved through the following outputs (i) national institutional mechanisms enhanced; (ii) working groups for program-, project-, and task-related initiatives and issues strengthened; (iii) SASEC Secretariat operationalized; and (iv) capacity of SASEC member countries to plan, implement, and monitor projects and initiatives strengthened.		
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	For the past 19 years, the SASEC program operated on an institution-light and projects-heavy format. The SASEC program's mechanisms for facilitation, coordination, and monitoring, as well as the platforms for discussions among the member countries, consist of (ii) SASEC Nodal Officials, who meet at least annually to review and provide strategic direction and guidance for cooperation under SASEC; (iii) working groups and subcommittee, which meet at least once a year to review strategic priorities and project-based progress; and (iv) SASEC Secretariat which is based at the ADB headquarters and assisted by regional cooperation specialists and focal points based in the resident missions. The SASEC FMs met once to endorse the SASEC Vision. This served the program well as the countries enjoyed the flexibility to proceed on their own pace. However, with the SASEC program facing more intensified and increasing new demands and the pursuit of the SASEC Vision's goals through the Updated OP and APSI, the strengthening of its institutional mechanisms is necessary. The enhancements in the existing institutional mechanisms and arrangements aim to ensure that the SASEC Vision provides a coherent and strategic direction for the SASEC program, and that the SASEC OP and APSI set the frameworks, guidelines, and priorities for more deliberate planning and accelerated implementation of regional cooperation projects.		
Impact	Economic cooperation and integration between SASEC member countries, and between SASEC and its neighboring subregions accelerated		
Outcome	Implementation of SASEC programs, projects, and initiatives accelerated		
Outputs	Regional and national institutional mechanisms enhanced Working groups for program-, project-, and task-related initiatives and issues strengthened. SASEC Secretariat established and operationalized in the subregion Capacity of SASEC member countries to plan, implement, and monitor projects and initiatives strengthened.		
Geographical Location	Bangladesh - Nation-wide; Bhutan - Nation-wide; India - Nation-wide; Maldives - Nation-wide; Myanmar - Nation-wide; Nepal - Nation-wide; Sri Lanka - Nation-wide		
<b>Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects</b>			
Environmental Aspects			
Involuntary Resettlement			
Indigenous Peoples			
<b>Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation</b>			
During Project Design			
During Project Implementation			
<b>Business Opportunities</b>			
Consulting Services	12 person months of international consultants and 15 person-months of national consultants		
Procurement	No procurement to be made		

Responsible ADB Officer	Hayashi, Tadateru
Responsible ADB Department	South Asia Department
Responsible ADB Division	Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Div, SARD
Executing Agencies	Asian Development Bank Hayashi, Tadateru, -- thayashi@adb.org 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550, Philippines

Timetable	
Concept Clearance	26 Nov 2020
Fact Finding	04 Sep 2020 to 04 Sep 2020
MRM	-
Approval	-
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	26 Nov 2020

Project Page	<a href="https://www.adb.org/projects/54392-001/main">https://www.adb.org/projects/54392-001/main</a>
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