



Regional: Knowledge Solutions for Trade Facilitation in Asia and the Pacific

Project Name	Knowledge Solutions for Trade Facilitation in Asia and the Pacific	
Project Number	56026-001	
Country / Economy	Regional	
Project Status	Active	
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance	
Source of Funding / Amount	TA 6934-REG: Knowledge Solutions for Trade Facilitation in Asia and the Pacific	
	Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 200,000.00
	Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund	US\$ 800,000.00
Strategic Agendas	Environmentally sustainable growth Inclusive economic growth Regional integration	
Drivers of Change	Gender Equity and Mainstreaming Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions Partnerships Private sector development	
Sector / Subsector	Industry and trade / Trade and services	
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Some gender elements	
Description	The TA is designed to bridge the knowledge gaps in the design and implementation of trade facilitation measures. It will support trade facilitation and RCI experts and practitioners in Asia and the Pacific. It will develop innovative solutions to emerging trade facilitation issues through improved knowledge resources, operationally relevant knowledge products, and increased capacity to effectively design and deliver trade facilitation initiatives.	
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>Trade facilitation is a key factor in strengthening a country's economic competitiveness by lowering the cost and improving the efficiency of trade across borders, thereby boosting trade and economic growth. Trade facilitation promotes integration of enterprises into regional and global value chains by minimizing unnecessary trade-related costs, especially for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises for which these can be excessively large. The importance of trade facilitation and logistics was amplified during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic when maintaining trade flows, particularly easing the flow of vaccines and other medical supplies, food, and other goods essential to deal with the crisis, and expediting digitalization became critical.</p> <p>Much progress has been made in reforming trade facilitation in Asia and the Pacific, but many challenges still hinder the seamless and faster movement of goods and services across borders. Challenges include cumbersome customs procedures, weak coordination and harmonization of systems across borders, suboptimal utilization of digitalization, inadequate transport and trade infrastructure and logistics, difficulties in administering standards and technical regulations (e.g., sanitary and phytosanitary measures), inefficient transport arrangements, poor access to trade finance, and inadequate measures to facilitate trade in services.</p> <p>While resources have been developed by international organizations, the absence of a mechanism to systematically collect, store, and share trade facilitation program and project information results in inadequate documentation and application of experiences, lessons learned, and good practices in designing and implementing trade facilitation measures. The inability to tap a wider pool of experts or practitioners when needed often results in the provision of the same recommendations and traditional programs and projects, irrespective of DMC needs. Insufficient assessment and analysis of knowledge needs results in a scarcity of upstream knowledge work that can solve persistent challenges affecting trade facilitation. The scarcity leads to weak stakeholder capacity to effectively design and implement trade facilitation measures, exacerbated by limited opportunities for sharing experiences, inadequate financing for capacity building, and unexplored opportunities for leveraging partnerships for capacity building with regional and international institutions.</p>	
Impact	Opportunities for DMCs to participate in global and regional trade expanded	
Project Outcome		
Description of Outcome	Knowledge solutions for trade facilitation in ADB DMCs fostered	
Progress Toward Outcome		
Implementation Progress		
Description of Project Outputs	Knowledge resources on trade facilitation programs and projects improved Operationally relevant knowledge products and events on trade facilitation completed	
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	
During Project Implementation	
Business Opportunities	
Consulting Services	International/ national consultants
Procurement	None
Responsible ADB Officer	Paz, Wilhelmina T.
Responsible ADB Department	Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department
Responsible ADB Division	SDTC-RCI
Executing Agencies	Asian Development Bank Wilhelmina Paz, Economist 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550, Philippines
Timetable	
Concept Clearance	12 Apr 2022
Fact Finding	31 Jan 2022 to 31 Jan 2022
MRM	-
Approval	27 Jul 2022
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	27 Jul 2022

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Financing Plan/TA Utilization						Cumulative Disbursements		
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
1,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000,000.00	-	0.00

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/56026-001/main
Request for Information	http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=56026-001
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