

TECHNICAL COOPERATION (TC) ABSTRACT

I. Basic Information

Country/Region:	Regional
TC Name:	Korea-LAC Scholarship Program (KLSP)
TC Number:	RG-T2579
Team Leader/Members:	Roberto Manrique (IFD/IFD), Team Leader; Maria Ines Vasquez, Claudia Mendieta, Melissa Gonzalez (IFD/ICS); So Young Lee (IFD/FMM), and Escarlata Baza (LEG).
Date of TC Abstract:	February 4, 2015
Classification:	Client support
Donors providing funding:	Korean trust funds administered by the Bank
Beneficiaries:	Public officials from the Bank's B, C and D borrowing member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean ¹
Executing Agency and contact name:	The Bank through IFD/IFD
IDB Funding Requested:	US\$950,000 (Korean trust funds administered by the IDB)
Local counterpart funding (expected):	US\$180,000
Disbursement period:	30 months
Required start date:	April 2015
Types of consultants:	Individual
Prepared by Unit:	Institutions for Development (IFD/IFD)
Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	IFD/IFD
TC Included in Country Strategy:	No
TC included in CPD:	No
GCI-9 Sector Priority:	Yes. Institutions for Growth and Social Welfare Strategy

II. Objectives and Justification

The LAC region faces significant institutional development challenges to attain the goal of more effective and efficient governments. These challenges are even more complex for the region's smaller and more vulnerable countries due to the structural constraints that limit their markets and increase their vulnerability to external shocks, as well as their more limited levels of economic and social development. One of the main institutional development challenges these countries face is the limited availability of professionals required to design, implement and evaluate public policies. The task of improving the public sector workforce entails both the goal of strengthening skills, and further developing a professional civil service.

The Republic of Korea (Korea) represents a role model in terms of institutional development and a successful experience in attaining a highly qualified public sector workforce. Noteworthy achievements include its professional civil service and a higher educational supply tailored to the goal of improving a set of skills consistent with the public officer profile required by its key public institutions. A long history of Korea-LAC cooperation, through activities supported by the IDB, constitutes a favorable environment

¹ Group B borrowing member countries include Chile, Colombia and Peru. Group C borrowing member countries include Bahamas, Barbados, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Panama, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, and Uruguay. Group D borrowing member countries include Belize, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Paraguay.

for smaller and more vulnerable LAC countries to learn from Korea’s progress in improving its public sector human capital to promote economic and social development.

The general objective of this TC is to strengthen LAC countries’ public sector workforce by improving targeted skills of mid-level public officials to design, implement and evaluate public policies. The specific objectives include: (i) improving the analytical and managerial skills of mid-level public officials, and (ii) facilitating an ongoing dialogue between public officials from Korea and B, C and D countries in LAC.

III. Description of Activities/Components

Component 1 – Scholarships. This component will finance about 24 scholarships for mid-level public officials from the Bank’s B, C and D borrowing member countries in LAC. These scholarships will cover the full cost of study (tuition) leading to a Master’s degree with a focus on public policy and public administration, accommodation, allowance for living expenses, educational materials, health insurance, travel to and from Korea, and other related expenses. Participating university(ies) in Korea are expected to make a partial financial contribution to these scholarships. The Master’s program is expected to be conducted in English.

Component 2 – Overall management. This component will finance consulting and other activities related to the selection of the participating university(ies); promotion and coordination of the program in Korea and in eligible LAC countries; management, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and dissemination of this program; and an initial assessment for a future network of scholarship beneficiaries.

IV. Budget

Activity/Component	Description	IDB/Korean Trust Funds	Other Funding (Expected from Korean univ)	Total
1. Scholarships	Full scholarships for about 24 mid-level public officials in participating countries in LAC (estimated at US\$45,000 per participant)	900,000	180,000	1,080,000
2. Overall management	Consulting and other activities for program administration, monitoring, evaluation and dissemination	50,000	0	50,000
Total		950,000	180,000	1,130,000

V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

Given the regional nature and scope of this program, the Bank will execute this technical cooperation through IFD/IFD. The project team will closely coordinate activities with participating university(ies) in Korea, beneficiary agencies in participating countries in LAC, and scholarship awardees.

VI. Project Risks and Issues

There is a risk related to the interest and program availability from potential Korean university(ies) that could provide the Master's program. This risk is minor as Korea has a significant pool of qualified universities that offer higher education programs in English tailored to build capacity and train public officials from around the world. The TC envisages the competitive selection of the university(ies) that would provide the Master's program. The selection would be done with the support of an external advisory group of leading experts to be hired under this program. There may also be limited interest from governments in eligible countries to participate in the KLSP. In order to mitigate this minor risk, the program will include a specific strategy and resources to promote the program in these countries.

There is also a risk associated to the selection of the scholarship recipients and their actual return to their respective LAC institutions upon completion of the program. To mitigate this risk, the TC will include criteria for the selection of candidates in participating countries. In addition to the standard academic and professional eligibility requirements, the criteria is expected to include a return commitment to the public sector in their respective countries for a period of 24 consecutive months; and the obligation of full scholarship repayment should candidates decide not to return. Also, the Korean university(ies) will select candidates, who will be officially nominated by their governments, based on their existing application eligibility criteria.

VII. Environmental and Social Classification

According to the Environment and Safeguards Compliance Policy (OP-703), the TC has been classified as Category C. No potential negative environmental and/or social impacts of the TC were identified and therefore no mitigation strategy is required to address any impact. See [IDBDOCS-#39331333](#).