CS ADB
December 2014

ASIA & PACIFIC:
INTERNATIONAL MARKET INSIGHTS

This International Market Insight (IMI) is a compilation of development projects funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). It is distributed monthly to alert U.S. firms to consulting and other procurement opportunities resulting from ADB loan projects, technical assistance (TA) and grants. In 2013, ADB provided $13.19 billion for loans, $849 million for grants and $149 million for TA.[1] This IMI can be your firm's link to these opportunities.

[1] *Statement of the Asian Development Bank's Operations in 2013*

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I. PROJECT LIST BY SECTOR

Country	Projects	ADB Assistance
Note: Click on the project title for full details.		
	AGRICULTURE and NATURAL RESOURCES SECTOR	
China	Xinjiang Kelamayi Ecological Forest Infrastructure	Technical Assistance (TA)
Laos	Northern Smallholder Livestock Commercialization Project	Loan
	EDUCATION SECTOR	
India	Supporting Kerala's Additional Skill Acquisition Program in Post-Basic Education	Loan
	ENERGY SECTOR	
Cook Islands	Renewable Energy Sector Project	Loan
India	Clean Energy Finance Investment Program - Tranche 1	Loan
Nauru	Electricity Supply Security and Sustainability	TA
Solomon Islands	Solar Power Development Project	TA
	ENVIRONMENT SECTOR	
Myanmar	Third Greater Mekong Subregion Corridor Towns Development Project	TA
Regional	Mainstreaming Air Quality in Urban Development through South - South Twinning	TA
Thailand	Community-Based Flood Risk Management and Disaster Response in the Chao Phraya Basin	TA
	INDUSTRY, FINANCE, and OTHER SECTORS	
Cambodia	Greater Mekong Subregion Tourism Infrastructure for Inclusive Growth Project	Loan
Cambodia	Third Financial Sector Program - Subprogram 3	Loan
Georgia	Improving Domestic Resource Mobilization for Inclusive Growth	Loan
India	Punjab Development Finance Program	Loan
India	Enhancing Bond Guarantee Structuring Skills in India	TA
India	Strengthening Rural Financial Inclusion and Farmer Access to Markets (Axis Bank and Yes Bank)	Assistance to private sector
Regional	Development of Guidance Materials and Screening Tools for Incorporating Disaster Risk Concerns in Country Partnership Strategy and Project Preparation	TA
Turkmenistan	Financial Sector Reforms	TA
	TRANSPORTATION and COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR	
India	Madhya Pradesh District Connectivity Sector Project	Loan
India	Supporting Sustainable Urban Transport in Aizawl City	TA
Myanmar	Maubin-Phyapon Road Rehabilitation Project	Loan

II. LOAN

NOTE: Please click on the project title to access full project information.

CAMBODIA

A. Greater Mekong Subregion Tourism Infrastructure for Inclusive Growth Project

Project No.	**:**	**46293-004**
Amount (US $ million)	**:**	**18.77**
Sector	**:**	**Industry and trade; Transport; Water supply and other municipal infrastructure and services**
Subsector	**:**	**Small and medium enterprise development; Trade and services Water transport (non-urban); Urban sanitation**

Responsible ADB Officer: Steven Schipani, Southeast Asia Department
Thailand Resident Mission

Status: ADB Board approved on 24 November 2014.

Impact: Increased tourism employment for men and women living in underdeveloped segments of the GMS Southern Coastal Corridor.

Outcome: Increased tourism receipts in Kampot, Kep and Koh Kong

Outputs:

- Last-mile tourism access infrastructure improved
- Environmental services in cross-border tourism centers improved
- Institutional capacity to promote inclusive tourism growth strengthened
- Effective project implementation and knowledge management

Business opportunities: http://adb.org/projects/details?page=business-opportunities&proj_id=46293-004

B. Third Financial Sector Program - Subprogram 3

Loan No.	**:**	**3185**
Project No.	**:**	**42305-033**
Amount (US $ million)	**:**	**15**
Executing agency	**:**	**National Bank of Cambodia**
Sector	**:**	**Finance**
Subsector	**:**	**Finance sector development**

Responsible ADB Officer: Hiroyuki Aoki, Southeast Asia Department
Public Management, Financial Sector and Trade Division

Status: ADB Board approved on 18 November 2014.

Description: ADB has been the leading development partner of the finance sector in Cambodia since 1999. A comprehensive approach was required to rebuild the financial system in a devastated economy that had no finance sector. Responding to the government s needs, the approach has been broadly based so far. After successfully rebuilding the basic foundation of the banking industry under the first and second programs, the third program has begun to support the sector s expansion to cover the important subsectors of nonbanking services and capital markets, and to boost investors and beneficiaries confidence in the system with a stronger legal and regulatory framework, necessary infrastructure, and better quality of services, including consumer protection. The third program has focused on creating an enabling environment for all sector stakeholders, including the various regulators. The scope has shifted from the establishment of regulatory frameworks to their effective implementation and oversight, and more transparency. Proper financial infrastructure is required to meet rising market needs for more efficient and diverse financial services, as is further development of the legal foundations to ensure smooth transactions in the sector. These reforms require coordination within the government and careful sequencing, including dialogue with the private sector. The third program has been facilitating closer coordination. After completion of the third program, ADB will continue the policy dialogue with the government under the Post-Program Partnership Framework. Also, ADB's technical assistance (TA) for implementing subprogram 2 of the Third Financial Sector Program has been extended to June 2015 to deal with the remaining issues. However, for the next round of support, ADB should concentrate on its areas of comparative advantage, in consultation with other development partners and the government. A first dialogue with the government to this end has started in the process of formulating the CPS, sector assessment, and strategy and road map. The impact will be a sound, market-oriented finance sector that supports the mobilization of financial resources. The outcome will be a growing, resilient, and efficient financial system.

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy: Cambodia's finance sector is highly dollarized and fragmented. Under the dollarized economy, the central bank has only limited measures to implement its monetary policies and manage inflation. It also has limited ability to provide liquidity as lender of last resort. The finance sector has been growing significantly, although from a small base. The banking industry still dominates the finance sector, accounting for more than 90% of assets in the sector. Moreover, banking itself is both concentrated and fragmented between urban and rural areas. The nonbanking segment and capital markets are at an early stage of development and do not yet have significant macroeconomic impact. Cambodia is now leaving the post-conflict era and faces the dual challenge of ensuring further development of the finance sector to support sustainable economic growth while striving for monetary policy independence. Past and ongoing efforts to build a more broad-based and resilient finance sector in Cambodia have yielded several lessons. First, as the scope of the sector expands, the need for consultation, coordination, and consensus building between government ministries and agencies, and with the private sector, increases. This will require time and strong leadership in planning and executing policy measures. Second, finance sector development should be based on a sequence of well-planned steps, where each step is supported by solid technical inputs. TA resources are essential in this regard and, given the limited availability of ADB funds, strong donor coordination is essential. The third program experienced some positive outcomes of close donor consultation, whereby completion of policy actions was made possible through timely technical inputs of other development partners. Also, some initiatives developed by ADB have now been implemented by other donor agencies. Third, a long-term engagement establishes understanding and trust, which is vital for any reform program to succeed but indispensable for the finance sector, where policy actions such as those relating to interest rates or foreign exchange may involve significant externalities. Implementation of the third program benefited from the strong relationship that ADB had built with government counterparts in over a decade of engagement in the sector, and the steps taken and progress made under subprogram 3 should be viewed as the building blocks that will need to be assessed in a long-term perspective including the Post-Program Partnership Framework.

Impact: A sound, market-oriented finance sector to enhance the mobilization of financial resources

Outcome: A growing, resilient, and efficient financial system

Outputs:
- Improved financial infrastructure
- Improved legal, regulatory, and institutional framework
- Strengthened finance sector governance
- Enhanced finance sector efficiency

Business opportunities: http://adb.org/projects/details?page=business-opportunities&proj_id=42305-033

COOK ISLANDS

Renewable Energy Sector Project

Loan No.	:	**3193**
Project No.	:	**46453-002**
Amount (US $ million)	:	**17**
Sector	:	**Energy**
Subsector	:	**Renewable energy generation - solar**

Responsible ADB Officer: Shigeru Yamamura, Pacific Department
Transport, Energy and Natural Resources Division

Status: ADB Board approved on 21 November 2014.

Description: The impact of the project will be increased energy security in an environmentally sustainable manner. The outcome will be an increased access to a higher share of electricity generated by renewable energy sources.

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy: The Cook Islands is a Pacific island country divided into two island groups with an estimated total population of 18,600 people. The Northern group consists of seven low-lying and sparsely populated coral atolls, while the Southern group consists of eight fertile volcanic islands. About 92% of the population lives in the Southern group islands including Rarotonga, a main island. Economic development is hindered by the country's limited size, isolation and distance from markets, lack of natural resources, periodic devastation from natural disasters, and inadequate infrastructure. The Cook Islands is heavily dependent on imported fuels. The total fuel import bill of the Cook Islands in 2012 was NZ$34.6 million or 25% of total imports and 9% of gross domestic product. Diesel-powered generators constitute about 99% of the total electricity generating capacity. The total installed power generation capacity in the Cook Islands is 11.75 megawatt (MW) with a distribution network comprising 80 kilometers (km) of 11 kilovolt (kV) underground cables and 200 km of 0.415 kV low voltage distribution lines. On the major islands of Rarotonga and Aitutaki, nearly 99% of all households are grid connected, 8% have additional solar photovoltaic home systems (SHS), and 3% use small diesel generators. On the outer islands, about 60% of households are grid connected, and 43% have a SHS. Current electricity demand in the Cook Islands is around 30.0 gigawatt-hour (GWh), which is forecast to modestly grow to 38.5 GWh by 2020. The Southern group is the dominant load center that accounts for 98% of current and future load demands. Delivery of energy services is undertaken by state-owned utilities on Rarotonga and Aitutaki islands, and by island administration committees on the other outer islands, which are vertically-integrated electricity authority operating generation, transmission, distribution and retail of electricity. Assets for energy services are owned and overseen by the Cook Islands Investment Corporation (CIIC), the government s holding company grouping the state-owned enterprises.

Impact: Increased energy security in an environmentally sustainable manner

Outcome: Increased access to a higher share of electricity generated by renewable energy sources

Outputs
1. Solar photovoltaic power system development
2. Solar photovoltaic power system for three non-core subprojects developed on Atiu, Aitutaki, and Rarotonga
3. Institutional and project management capacity strengthened

Business opportunities: http://adb.org/projects/details?page=business-opportunities&proj_id=46453-002

GEORGIA

Improving Domestic Resource Mobilization for Inclusive Growth

Loan Nos. : 3190; 3191
Project No. : 48044-001
Amount (US $ million) : 75
Sector : Finance; Public sector management
Subsector : Finance sector development; Insurance and contractual savings; Money and capital markets; Public expenditure and fiscal management

Responsible ADB Officer: Tariq H. Niazi, Central and West Asia Department,
Public Management, Financial Sector and Trade Division
E-mail: tniazi@adb.org

Status: ADB Board approved on 21 November 2014.

Description: The program will enhance inclusive growth options by opening up the fiscal space for the government to meet its planned significant funding of inclusive social and economic services. To achieve this, the program will support fiscal consolidation, improve revenue management, strengthen public expenditure management, enhance the generation of domestic savings, and increase private resource mobilization for investment opportunities, especially for micro, small, and medium-sized businesses. The program impact will be citizens, particularly women, benefiting from higher living standards and more employment opportunities. The outcome will be the effective mobilization of domestic resources for increased public and private investment. The program will help enable improved fiscal space, better business opportunities and pension arrangements for women, more sustainable social service delivery, and a better environment for economic growth. The outputs are: (i) improved management of debt, cash and fiscal risk; (ii) strengthened revenue and public expenditure management; (iii) enhanced generation of domestic savings; and (iv) increased mobilization of private resources for investment.

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy: The proposed program aims to improve domestic resource mobilization (DRM) to help achieve inclusive growth in Georgia. The program supports improved debt and fiscal risk management, more efficient revenue and public expenditure management, generation of domestic savings, and mobilization of private resources for investment. Inequality of income and opportunity will be addressed through the redistributive role of fiscal policy in tax and social protection measures. The programmatic approach and policy-based loan will finance three subprograms implemented from 2014- 2016. Growth of the Georgian economy since the Rose Revolution in 2003 has averaged nearly 6% annually during 2004 2013, leading to an increase in per capita gross national income by three times in current US dollar terms. While Georgia advanced rapidly on the Doing Business rankings, growth stemmed mainly from capital inflows before the twin crises of 2008 (the global financial crisis and the conflict with the Russian Federation) and from high public capital spending thereafter. In 2008 the crises sharply reduced capital inflows, and private investment and growth contracted by 3.8% in 2009. The government launched countercyclical fiscal measures to spur growth, increasing public expenditure from 34.0% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2007 to 38.4% in 2009. The fiscal stimulus paid off, with growth rebounding and averaging more than 5% during 2010 2013. The share of foreign direct investment in GDP declined from 7.7% in 2011 to 5.8% in 2012. However, by the first quarter of 2014 it had increased to 7.2%. With the change in government in 2012, public finances came under pressure because of a large increase in social expenditure and limited scope to raise revenues, resulting in a fiscal deficit of 2.6% of GDP. The deficit is expected to widen to 3.7% in 2014 with a surge in social expenditures and lower revenues due to the slowing of growth in preceding years. The composition of central government expenditure will be changing over time with subsidies, transfers, compensation of employees, and interest payments taking up increasing budget shares at the expense of goods and services. In 2013 public capital expenditure, a significant driver of Georgia's economic growth during previous years, declined to below 6% of GDP from the 2008 2011 level of 7.5%

8% due to project implementation delays. Weaknesses have been identified in the selection, preparation, and appraisal of investment projects. Infrastructure investment needs, including those emerging from decentralization, will require a strong public investment management system to contain fiscal risks and maintain existing infrastructure. Maintaining sound macroeconomic and prudent fiscal management is critical for inclusive growth, requiring the government to exercise expenditure restraint as well as to increase revenues. The planned increase in social expenditures in the medium term is consistent with the government's push for inclusive, equitable growth for all citizens, as well as for gender-equitable growth. In this situation, maintaining capital expenditure requires careful prioritization of spending and improved expenditure efficiency and effectiveness to ensure fiscal sustainability. The government plans to develop public private partnerships to leverage public resources and increase private participation, which can also strengthen its fiscal position. The government confronts different types of fiscal risk macroeconomic, debt, and contingent liabilities as well as those risks arising from state-owned enterprise (SOE) operations and the finance sector. The present capacity to monitor and deal with these different risks is limited. Recent reviews have put particular emphasis on the risks associated with the quasi-fiscal operations of SOEs, as some implicit subsidies are not reflected in the budget and the accounts of the central government. The SOE sector in Georgia contributed to 7% of gross GDP in 2012, accounting for 24% of total corporate investment. Total public debt amounted to 34.4% of GDP in 2013, of which 27.2% was denominated in foreign currency. Borrowing procedures are generally well developed, but external borrowing is poorly documented. A defined debt strategy is needed, as is more detailed analysis of external borrowing proposals. Operational risk management procedures are well developed but documentation to present a comprehensive snapshot is lacking. Presently, debt management and cash management in Georgia are two separate activities. Cash management is weak, since the government relies on a non-remunerated cash buffer in the National Bank of Georgia to ensure that payments can be made when due. In modern treasury management, these two functions are merged and managed by one single entity, using financial market instruments to meet the government s immediate and longer-term cash needs. To reach this stage, a two-pronged approach is required: developing the local financial markets and establishing a modern treasury function in the Ministry of Finance (MOF). Tax policy and administration reforms serve as part of wider improvements of the business and investment climate. Total taxes in Georgia amount to 24.8% of GDP, of which indirect taxes make up 13.6% and direct taxes 11.2% in 2013. A notable feature is the constitutional ban on increasing various tax rates. The Georgia Revenue Service is responsible for collecting taxes for both levels of government as well as customs duties. High levels of old arrears impair the smooth functioning of tax administration. Selective writing-off of tax arrears is needed, with improved capacity for risk analysis to guide audit targeting and current controls. Pensions constitute the largest social spending item in the state budget, accounting for 18% of public expenditure in 2013 and 4% of GDP. This cost is likely to increase over time because of population aging. Social security is presently noncontributory. The current pension system needs revision to ensure both fiscal sustainability and adequate pension levels over the medium term. More expansive and efficient capital markets will be necessary to absorb pension inflows and allow pension funds to responsibly invest in equities. Capital markets, including money markets, can also provide funding for banks and nonbank financial institutions in Georgia through equity raising and bond issuance. In the design of a new pension system it is essential to take gender issues into account, as women are less likely to work in formal sectors, generally earn lower wages, and may perform other nonpaid labor. The current pension eligibility age is 65 for men and 60 for women, and is paid to all citizens regardless of marital status. The small and medium-sized enterprise sector represents nearly 96% of registered businesses and employs 42.0% of the workforce in Georgia, but accounted for only 17.7% of business turnover in 2013. Firms cite high interest rates, risk-averse bank lending policies, and absence of venture capital as major constraints on growth. Small businesses currently rely on owner resources or on retained earnings for investment. Poor development of securities and capital markets and long-term financial instruments, and reliance on a fully publicly funded pension scheme, prevent higher savings rates and limit the funds available for lending. Increasing access to finance, especially for small businesses managed by women, is an important policy consideration. Limited support for and use of innovation and technology also hampers small business development, with Georgia ranking 73 out of 142 on the World Economic Forum's Global Innovation Index. The program is consistent with the country assistance to Georgia from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and with government policy.

Impact: Citizens, particularly women, benefit from higher living standards and more employment opportunities.

Outcome: Effective mobilization of domestic resources for increased public and private investment

Outputs
1. Debt, cash, and fiscal risk management improved
2. Revenue and public expenditure management strengthened
3. Generation of domestic savings enhanced
4. Mobilization of private resources for investment increased

Business opportunities: http://adb.org/projects/details?page=business-opportunities&proj_id=48044-001

INDIA

A. Madhya Pradesh District Connectivity Sector Project

Loan No.	**:**	**3189**
Project No.	**:**	**47270-001**
Amount (US $ million)	**:**	**500**
Sector	**:**	**Transport**
Subsector	**:**	**Road transport (non-urban)**

Responsible ADB Officer: P. V. Ravi, South Asia Department
Transport and Communications Division

Status: ADB Board approved on 19 November 2014.

Description: The project will improve about 1600 km of major district roads in the state of Madhya Pradesh, in line with the state's road development plan for 2013-2033. It will involve upgrading major district roads to intermediate lane-width of 5.5 m, or two-lane width of 7 m, depending on traffic requirements, reconstruction, widening and strengthening culverts and bridges, and maintaining the improved road assets for a period of five years after construction.

Modality: The project is prepared as a sector loan, which is particularly well suited for the financial assistance for the following reasons: (i) the project pertains to a number of MDRs distributed across the state; (ii) the state has a sector development plan in place (Development Plan for State Roads in Madhya Pradesh 2013-2033); (iii) the state has the requisite institutional capacity to prepare and implement the sector plan and to prepare the individual road packages. Key to this capacity is the MPRDC, which was set up under an ADB TA. MPRDC was incorporated in 2004, and designated as a highway authority under the state's highway legislation to develop state highways, major district roads, and other infrastructure. MPRDC is an empowered organization, with the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh being the Chairperson of the Board, and the Minister for Madhya Pradesh Public Works Department (MPPWD) and the Chief Secretary of the state being Vice Chairpersons. MPRDC has developed a strong managerial and technical team, headed by its Managing Director, who is a senior official. MPRDC has substantive experience from prior ADB loans in project design and implementation.

Sample Roads: Under the sector lending modality, four sample subprojects have been prepared, which are (i) Chitrangi Kasar road, (ii) Dabra Bhitarwar Harsi road, (iii) Mahua Chuawahi road, and (iv) Ujjain Maksi road. These four roads aggregate to about 188 km, about 11% of proposed road length under the project, for which the project cost is assessed as about $77 million. The non-sample roads will be selected and approved in line with the criteria and process outlined in the project administration manual (PAM).

Sustainable Maintenance: To ensure better construction quality and also better maintenance of the road assets after construction, the project will also include a 5-year, performance based maintenance period adjunct to the construction contract. This will transfer a modicum of construction quality risk and maintenance risk to the private sector, and garner better value for money to the users. While this is being done on national and state highway projects in the country, this may be the first system-wide attempt for MDRs in a state.

Road Safety and Accident Response: Previous ADB loans have supported MPRDC s endeavor for improving road safety and designing an accident response system. MPRDC is already in the process of implementing a geographical information-based, information technology-enabled accident response system in the state. To make the system amenable to the first-response financial exigencies of accident victims, MPRDC is also proposing to link insurance funds to the accident response system, which is amongst the first such initiative in the country. MDRs being improved under this project will also be covered under the accident response system and insurance fund structure being developed by MPRDC. The impact of the project will be improved road transport connectivity in the state of Madhya Pradesh. The outcome of the project will be improved road transport efficiency in Madhya Pradesh. The project outputs will be: (i) reconstructed and rehabilitated major district roads, to all weather standards, and designed for road safety; and (ii) improved road maintenance and asset management. About 1,600 km of MDRs will be reconstructed and rehabilitated to intermediate lane-width of 5.5 m, or two-lane width of 7 m, depending on traffic requirements. The roads will be designed for road safety. The contracts will include five (5) year performance based maintenance obligations. MDRs under the project will be integrated into the accident response system being developed by MPRDC. The project is estimated to cost $500 million. The Government has requested a loan of $350,000,000 from ADB s ordinary capital resources to help finance the project, which is 70% of the project cost. The executing agency for the project will be GOMP acting through MPRDC. MPRDC will implement the project through its field offices at key locations, which will be responsible for day-to-day project implementation and management and will assign staff to work on the project. One or two full-time project managers will be assigned for each contract package. The project managers will be delegated adequate technical and administrative authority for expeditious project implementation. MPRDC will engage construction supervision consultants as the engineers for the construction contracts. All procurement of goods and works will be undertaken in accordance with ADB’s Procurement Guidelines (March 2013, as amended from time to time). All consultants will be recruited according to ADB s Guidelines on the Use of Consultants (March 2013, as amended from time to time). ADB approved advance contracting of civil works in December 2013.

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy: Madhya Pradesh is a state with a high incidence of poverty and needing substantial investments to meet developmental needs. ADB has assisted GOMP with three previous loans for addressing improvements to state highways, and ADB’s loans to the central line ministry have been used for rural roads in the state. MDRs form a key link in the road network between the rural roads and the state highways. Developing this network will foster inclusiveness by enabling larger segments of the state’s population to better access markets and basic services. The project is consistent with the strategic objective set out in the Country Partnership Strategy 2013-2017 of development of state core network, focusing on lagging states, and with the transport sector objective of increased, more efficient and sustainable movement of people and goods. The project is not included in the Country Operations Business Plan: India (2013-2015). However, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India (DEA) has cleared the project for ADB’s financial assistance, for approval in 2014.

Impact: Improved road transport connectivity in the state of Madhya Pradesh

Outcome: Improved road mobility and road efficiency in Madhya Pradesh

Outputs
1. Reconstructed and rehabilitated major district roads, to all weather standards, and designed for road safety

2. Improved road maintenance and asset management

Business opportunities: http://adb.org/projects/details?page=business-opportunities&proj_id=47270-001

B. Supporting Kerala's Additional Skill Acquisition Program in Post-Basic Education

Loan No.	**:**	**3188**
TA No.	**:**	**8760**
Project No.	**:**	**47334-002**
Amount (US $ million)	**:**	**148.5**
Sector	**:**	**Education**
Subsector	**:**	**Technical and vocational education and training**

Responsible ADB Officer: Shamit Chakravarti, South Asia Department
Human and Social Development Division

Status: ADB Board approved on 19 November 2014.

Description: The Kerala State Skill Development Project was launched by the Government of Kerala (GOK) in July 2012 to enhance the employability of the state's youth and create opportunities for productive employment. It has two sub-programs to tackle the supply-side problems. The first, the Additional Skill Acquisition Program (ASAP), has been designed by the Departments of Higher Education and General Education, GOK to address the preventive dimension of low employability. The second, the Additional Skill Enhancement Program, has been designed by the Department of Labor and Employment and the Department of Local Self Government, GOK to address the curative dimension by focusing on re-skilling the unemployed youths registered with employment exchanges. The Government of India and GOK have requested Asian Development Bank assistance for strengthening and scaling up ASAP since it aims to tackle the problem of low employability early on by integrating general and vocational education so that students become market-ready even while being enrolled in school and college. The impact will be increased employment of Kerala's youth. The outcome is that the graduates of government and government-aided higher secondary schools and arts-science colleges are more employable. This will be achieved by the following outputs: (i) market-relevant vocational training introduced in post-basic education, (ii) access to quality vocational training enhanced, (iii) increased awareness and private sector participation facilitated, (iv) improved program management and monitoring and evaluation.

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy: The proposed support for ASAP reflects the priorities of the India Country Partnership Strategy, 2013- 2017 which seeks to reinforce India's efforts towards inclusive growth and recognizes education (with focus on TVET) as a new sector in ADB's India operations. It is also closely aligned with the midterm review of Strategy 2020 which emphasizes the need for ADB to expand education sector lending from an average of 3% during 2008- 2012 to 6% -10% of annual approvals by focusing on post-basic education and TVET to promote human capital development, and facilitating public-private partnerships to leverage and improve results.

Impact: Increased employment of Kerala s youth (aged 15 to 24 years)

Outcome: Increased employability of ASAP certificate holders

Outputs:

- Market-relevant vocational training introduced in post-basic education
- Access to quality vocational training enhanced
- Increased awareness and private sector participation facilitated
- Improved program management and M&E

Business opportunities: http://adb.org/projects/details?page=business-opportunities&proj_id=47334-002

C. Punjab Development Finance Program

Loan No.	**:**	**3187**
TA No.	**:**	**8759**
Project No.	**:**	**45288-002**
Amount (US $ million)	**:**	**200.4**
Sector	**:**	**Public sector management**
Subsector	**:**	**Public expenditure and fiscal management**

Responsible ADB Officer: Hiranya Mukhopadhyay, South Asia Department
Public Management, Financial Sector and Trade Division

Status: ADB Board approved on 19 November 2014.

Description: A policy-based loan of $200 million for the Punjab Development Finance Program that seeks to facilitate implementation of a comprehensive fiscal consolidation program in Punjab. This will generate fiscal savings and thereby assist Punjab to augment and sustain growth enhancing development financing.

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy: Punjab is primarily an agrarian economy with a population of 28 million. Punjab has always been instrumental in ensuring national food security since 1960s. The Government of Punjab (GOP) traditionally provides various subsidies, including free power to farmers, to promote agriculture in the state. Despite these schemes, Punjab agriculture is currently constrained by declining productivity, soil degradation, and water depletion. Despite relatively robust own-tax effort in Punjab with an own-tax to gross state domestic product (GSDP) ratio of 8.2%, Punjab's extremely fragile fiscal situation could primarily be attributed to ad hoc expenditure planning and management with untargeted transfer payment and subsidy schemes. The deteriorating fiscal situation in Punjab has placed added pressures on public resources constraining development financing (investment), leading to poor delivery of public goods and services in the state. The committed expenditures of the state government (those on salaries, pensions, interest payments, and subsidies alone) have almost exhausted the total revenue receipts of the state in recent years, requiring the state to undertake even larger borrowings to finance these expenditures, thereby trapping the state in a vicious cycle of mounting current account (revenue) and fiscal deficits. The committed liabilities, including subsidies, were almost 100% of revenue receipts during the 11th plan period (2007-2012). The weak financial performance of the public sector enterprises (PSEs) including newly created Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) and Punjab State Transmission Corporation Limited (PSTCL) has further exacerbated the growing fiscal imbalances and mounting public debt. A major contributory factor to fiscal distress is the state's poor expenditure planning and management tradition. GOP does not follow the system of project appraisal before approving a project. Moreover, the lack of evaluation and monitoring system causes inordinate delays in project execution, leading to escalation in costs and the projects, quite often, fail to deliver the desired outcomes. More importantly, untargeted power subsidy, triggered by populist policies, has brought both the state exchequer and the power sector on the brink of financial collapse. This has many implications. First, PSPCL is unable to modernize the power infrastructure due to lack of borrowing opportunities from the banks and financial institutions. Second, the deteriorating fiscal situation of GOP has had negative consequences for GOP's development agenda. In particular, the increase in nondiscretionary committed expenditure has reduced fiscal space limiting the ability of GOP to make effective use of public spending to meet its policy priorities. More directly, this has resulted in a large opportunity cost as the disproportionate share of the fiscal adjustment fell on capital spending.

Impact: Improved development financing in the state

Outcome: Larger and sustainable fiscal space in the state government

Outputs:
1. Improved capacity for fiscal management
2. Rationalized expenditure focusing on power subsidies
3. Improved revenue efforts

Business opportunities: http://adb.org/projects/details?page=business-opportunities&proj_id=45288-002

D. Clean Energy Finance Investment Program - Tranche 1

Loan No.	:	**3186**
Project No.	:	**46268-002**
Amount (US $ million)	:	**400**
Sector	:	**Energy; Finance**
Subsector	:	**Renewable energy generation - biomass and waste; Renewable energy generation – geothermal; Renewable energy generation – solar; Renewable energy generation – wind; Infrastructure finance and investment funds**

Responsible ADB Officer: Anqian Huang, South Asia Department
Public Management, Financial Sector and Trade Division

Status: ADB Board approved on 17 November 2014.

Description: The proposed MFF totaling $500 million consists of financial intermediation sovereign loans to the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA). The Asian Development Bank (ADB) funds will support lending by IREDA to eligible renewable energy subprojects in India, including wind, biomass, hydropower, solar, and cogeneration technologies. This MFF will leverage private capital to expand sector lending in order to add renewable energy capacity in India.

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy: Background. India has undergone a rapid economic transformation, with an average annual gross domestic product growth rate of 6.8% during 2008 2013. However, more rapid economic growth is inhibited by chronic electricity shortages, which constrain commercial activity. Around 300 million citizens (around 25% of India's population) have no access to electricity, while many with access have an intermittent supply. Meanwhile, the government's push to narrow the electricity supply gap has increased India's dependence on fossil fuels, particularly imported oil (for diesel-based captive generation) and coal. To balance the conflicting objectives among growth, climate change, and energy security, India is scaling up renewable energy investment. Demand analysis. The Government of India has ambitious programs to target renewable energy development as a key element in the overall expansion of power generation capacity. As of 31 December 2013, India's total installed electricity-generating capacity was around 234 gigawatts (GW), which included around 30 GW of renewable energy. Based on strong policy incentives, India s Twelfth Five-Year Plan targets an increase of renewable energy generation capacity from 30 GW to 60 GW by FY2017, and further to 105 GW by FY2022. Demand for renewable energy investment is thus expected to be robust during the 10-year life of this MFF.

Financing challenges: A major challenge to sustaining high levels of renewable energy deployment in India is the lack of sufficient long term debt financing for project lending. Due to the relatively high upfront (per megawatt) cost of renewable energy projects, loan tenors of 12 or more years are usually required to make projects financially viable. However, such long-term funds are scarce in the Indian market, where project lending is predominantly bank-based, and commercial banks have difficulty lending long-term funds from short-term deposits, given the implied asset liability mismatch. Similarly, the implementation of Basel III capital regulations in India will lead to banks having to raise additional capital given the stricter requirements on capital adequacy and asset liability management, and to hold additional long-term funds.

Both of these factors are expected to lead to rising long-term funding costs and constrained project lending capacity.

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency: Under the administrative oversight of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, IREDA is a wholly government-owned nonbank financial institution established in 1987 to promote renewable energy investment. IREDA is well capitalized with increasing profitability. Taxable bonds issued by IREDA from 2008 are all rated AAA by local rating agencies, including Credit Analysis and Research Limited (known as CARE Ratings) and Brickwork. IREDA's lending constitutes about 11% of total renewable energy lending in India. What differentiates IREDA from other commercial lenders is its deep sector knowledge; experience to understand the technical and commercial risks; and its advantageous long-term capital base. This enables IREDA to provide limited recourse, cash flow-based financing for up to 15 years, which most commercial banks in India cannot. In addition, commercial banks typically favor lending based on the balance sheets of their existing, large corporate customers irrespective of the quality of the underlying project, rather than project, cash flow-based lending. IREDA's ability to fund renewable energy projects on the merits of their cash flows and risk profiles enables it to fund good projects from smaller, less-capitalized sponsors. This widens the pool of project developers and investable projects, leverages additional private capital, and facilitates renewable project development.

Road map: In 2008, India launched the National Action Plan for Climate Change to promote sustainable development by using clean technologies to limit greenhouse gas emissions, and to increase the share of power generation by renewables to 15% by FY2022. To help meet this target, the government is leveraging IREDA s position as a uniquely specialized renewable energy financier. IREDA s medium- to long-term business plan (FY2014 FY2024) includes a total disbursement of about $6.6 billion, leading to an estimated additional 13.4 GW of energy capacity. To accomplish this expansion, IREDA is building its capacity, streamlining its operations, and seeking additional capital from ADB and other sources to enable increased support for renewable energy investments.

Strategic context: ADB support to IREDA is consistent with ADB's Energy Policy, which includes promoting renewable energy to increase energy security and facilitate the transition to a low carbon economy. It is also consistent with ADB's country partnership strategy (CPS) for India, 2013 2017, which emphasizes clean and renewable energy expansion. ADB support aligns with the CPS in terms of its energy sector road map and financial sector development (catalyzing infrastructure investments, including through investment funds and credit lines). The investment program thus directly aligns with multiple facets of the CPS.

Policy framework: ADB's support is consistent with India's policies and initiatives. Taking into account India s energy security concerns and the environment, the Integrated Energy Policy 2006 identified the need to expand the use of renewable energy technologies as a key pillar for energy sector development. The New Hydro Policy 2008 streamlines hydropower investment and tendering procedures. The Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission, launched in 2010, intends to deploy 20,000 megawatts (MW) of solar power by 2022. Renewable energy policy incentives include tax incentives, feed-in (e.g., preferential) tariffs, generation-based incentives, and regulations establishing minimum renewable purchase obligations for power distribution utilities. By bringing critically needed longer-term debt financing to the renewable energy sector in India, ADB's support will complement these government incentives, catalyze private sector investment, and facilitate sector development.

Investment program: The government has requested ADB to provide a $500 million MFF to fund a portion of the long-term credit IREDA needs to meet its renewable energy development target. The MFF leverages public sector resources (from IREDA) to catalyze private sector investments in renewable energy. Increasing the power supply through renewable energy sources sustains economic activities, alleviates poverty, and supports inclusive and environmentally sustainable growth, while minimizing India s carbon footprint. The MFF will incorporate and contribute to a comprehensive institutional capacity development program, supported by IREDA, development partners, and ADB technical assistance (TA). The preconditions for using the MFF modality are in place, including the road map and strategy, policy framework, and investment and financing plans. The MFF is the most suitable modality, and allows ADB to make a long-term commitment to support the institution. The MFF modality enables ADB to work with IREDA to better match ADB's evolving road map with the country's renewable energy goals over the medium-term. More specifically, the MFF approach gives IREDA the phased funding it needs to match its subproject pipeline growth, and provides flexibility to adjust sub-loan terms and future tranche conditions as needed to match IREDA's on-lending requirements, while preserving the possibility of offering innovative financial products (e.g., local currency financing, partial risk guarantees, and other credit enhancement products).

Impact: Increased renewable energy infrastructure

Outcome: Facilitated investment in renewable energy

Outputs:
- Enhanced availability of long-term financing to support renewable energy projects
- Improved institutional capacity of IREDA

Business opportunities: http://adb.org/projects/details?page=business-opportunities&proj_id=46268-002

LAOS

Northern Smallholder Livestock Commercialization Project

Project No. : 47300-002
Amount (US $ million) : 21.5
Sector : Agriculture, natural resources and rural development
Subsector : Agricultural policy, institutional and capacity development Livestock; Rural market infrastructure

Responsible ADB Officer: Charles David Salter Southeast Asia Department
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Division

Status: ADB Board approved on 24 November 2014.

Impact: Increased incomes for smallholder livestock producers in the project areas.

Outcome: Increased livestock sales from sustainable smallholder production in the project areas.

Outputs:
1. Strengthened capacities of smallholders and other livestock value chain actors.
2. Livestock value chain infrastructure strengthened
3. Capacity to access credit improved
4. Project management enhanced

Business opportunities: http://adb.org/projects/details?page=business-opportunities&proj_id=47300-002

MYANMAR

Maubin-Phyapon Road Rehabilitation Project

Loan No.	**:**	**3199**
Project No.	**:**	**47086-002**
Amount (US $ million)	**:**	**80**
Sector	**:**	**Transport**
Subsector	**:**	**Road transport (non-urban)**

Responsible ADB Officer: James Leather Southeast Asia Department
Transport and Communications Division

Status: ADB Board approved on 26 November 2014.

Description: The Maubin Phyapon road section will be reconstructed to 2 lanes with appropriate width shoulders, suitable for all standard highway traffic. The proposed project aims to: (i) improve access to and within the Ayeyarwaddy Delta by rehabilitating 52.5 km of road between Maubin and Phyapon, the principal north-south artery on the eastern edge of the Ayeyarwaddy Delta, and (ii) provide an essential transport link connection to economic, health, education, and employment opportunities. The addition of landing points at the numerous locations where waterways meet the road, the agricultural hinterland of this part of the delta region, will be made more accessible and improve the lives of many of the region's poor through increased opportunities for income generation and improved rural livelihoods.

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy: Improvements to the Maubin Phyapon road in the Ayeyarwaddy Delta would dramatically improve connectivity and economic development in the area, lifting many of this poor region of Myanmar out of poverty. It would improve access to this densely populated, poor, but productive agricultural area. Traffic volumes in the area are currently moderate, but are likely to increase rapidly as the country's economic liberalization program extends into the hinterland.

Impact: Improved economic opportunities in the eastern seaboard of the Ayeyarwaddy Delta

Outcome: Reduced travel times and transport costs in the project area

Outputs:
- Rehabilitated 54.5 km road from Maubin to Phyapon
- Improved testing facilities at MOC and Public Works laboratories and offices

Business Opportunities: http://adb.org/projects/details?page=business-opportunities&proj_id=47086-002

III. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

PLEASE NOTE: Please click on the project title to access full project information. Technical assistance (TA) is used to prepare and implement projects, and support advisory and regional activities of the bank. ADB is no longer issuing TA project alerts classified according to type, i.e., project preparatory technical assistance (PPTA), advisory technical assistance (ADTA), etc. If you want to know the specific TA classification, please contact our office or inquire directly with the bank.

CHINA

Xinjiang Kelamayi Ecological Forest Infrastructure

TA No.	**:**	**8767**
Project No.	**:**	**48036-001**
Amount (US $ million)	**:**	**0.6**
Sector	**:**	**Agriculture, natural resources and rural development**
Subsector	**:**	**Agricultural drainage; Irrigation; Land-based natural resources management; Water-based natural resources management**

Responsible ADB Officer: Frank Radstake, East Asia Department
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Division

Status: ADB Board approved on November 27, 2014.

Description: Rapid urban development in water scarce areas poses serious challenges for the sustainable economic development in many parts of the People's Republic of China (PRC). For example, Kelamayi Municipality, located in the northwest of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and characterized by a dry climate, is an important national energy base. The municipality has experienced rapid urban and economic development for the past several decades, mainly driven by oil and gas extraction. Over the last 10 years, the city experienced an average growth rate of 0.5%, while the population has grown from 250,000 in 1994 to 380,000 in 2010. Expecting continued economic growth in the city, the Kelamayi Municipal Government (KMG) recognizes the need for strengthening the management and protection of its natural resources, in particular with respect to its scarce water resources.

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy: The future of Kelamayi Municipality largely relies on sustainable and efficient usage of surface water and groundwater, and increased reuse of treated wastewater. Surface water resources from two small rivers are derived from snowmelt from the area near the Tarbagatai and Saur mountain ranges during the period of April to August. Since 2008, the city receives water from the international Irtysh River, through the Irtysh Kelamayi Canal. The KMG has constructed two large reservoirs, Ayi-Kule and San-Pin, which are used for domestic, industrial, and agricultural water use. Groundwater resources in Kelamayi are limited, and in certain areas saline. Critical to the municipality s continued development is the implementation of strategies that increase water conservation and water use efficiency for the agricultural sector, one of the largest water users in Kelamayi. The KMG plans to reduce usage of raw water by: (i) increasing the use of treated wastewater, and (ii) adapting more appropriate agroforestry practices for the area. The KMG has issued multiple policy documents and regulations that embrace environmentally sustainable economic growth as essential to improving urban living conditions in the city. The Kelamayi Central Urban Area Master Plan 2010 2020 sets out principles for water reuse that support this development. Those principles are the foundation for the Kelamayi water sector plans. Moreover, the KMG recognizes the need to introduce better incentives for agricultural enterprises and local farmers to strengthen the value chain to improve the quality of the agricultural products. Implementation of the envisaged inclusive development approach, together with improved water use efficiency, would demonstrate how responsible agroforestry production can be achieved in the agricultural development zones under scarce water conditions.

Government policy and ADB’s country strategy: The proposed project is consistent with the PRC’s long-term goal to ensure that environmental resources and peoples livelihoods are not undermined by rapid urban and economic development. The Third Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee of the Communist Party Congress in November 2013 emphasized the importance of eco-civilization and the application of red-lines to halt environmental degradation. The PRC government has now included sustainable management of scarce water resources as a performance indicator for local governments, and emphasized the need to strengthen eco-civilization approaches as part of the local development planning. The proposed project is also in line with ADB’s country partnership strategy, 2011-2015 for the PRC in supporting the government s overarching strategic goal by focusing on inclusive and environmentally sustainable growth. The project will contribute to ADB's Water Operational Plan 2011 2020 by demonstrating: (i) increased water use efficiencies across the range of users, (ii) integrated water resources management, and (iii) expanded knowledge and capacity development that uses technology and innovation more directly. The project is expected to promote sound management practices for the conservation and re-use of water resources, and introduce sustainable agroforestry in Kelamayi Municipality. The proposed project is included in ADB s lending pipeline as 2016 firm for the PRC. Project loan is proposed as financing modality of the project.

Business opportunities: http://adb.org/projects/details?page=business-opportunities&proj_id=48036-001

INDIA

A. Supporting Sustainable Urban Transport in Aizawl City

TA No.	:	**8765**
Project No.	:	**48356-001**
Amount (US $ million)	:	**0.23**
Sector	:	**Transport**
Subsector	:	**Urban public transport**

Responsible ADB Officer: Tsuneyuki Sakai, South Asia Department
Transport and Communications Division

Status: ADB Board approved on November 25, 2014.

Project details yet to be determined.

Business opportunities: http://adb.org/projects/details?page=business-opportunities&proj_id=48356-001

B. Enhancing Bond Guarantee Structuring Skills in India

TA No.	:	**8764**
Project No.	:	**48422-001**
Amount (US $ million)	:	**0.23**
Sector	:	**Finance**
Subsector	:	**Banking systems and nonbank financial institutions**

Responsible ADB Officer: Donald J. Lambert, South Asia Department
Public Management, Financial Sector and Trade Division

Status: ADB Board approved on November 17, 2014.

Description: The assistance will partially finance the incremental costs of developing the legal documentation for three model transactions, based on actual issuances. ADB will then raise awareness and disseminate this template documentation via: (i) its website and (ii) hosting a knowledge event in Mumbai for public and private sector participants from India and neighboring countries. The template documentation is expected to significantly assist the Indian bond market's development by enabling the use of guarantee structures for infrastructure projects bonds, which will allow long-term institutional investors to invest in them. It will deepen the bond market through the increased issuance of project bonds for infrastructure projects, traditionally financed through the banking sector. At the same time, it will make bond markets more liquid since institutional investors are legally enabled to buy and trade these papers. As a result, the financial sector in India will benefit from deeper and more liquid bond markets while the banking sector will be able to mitigate maturity mismatches in their balance sheets. The model documentation may also serve as a model for neighboring countries, such as Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Nepal that have comparable legal systems.

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy: The TA is aligned with ADB's India CPS for 2013 - 2017. Infrastructure development is one of five thrusts that the CPS highlights. Within the finance sector, the CPS emphasizes infrastructure finance. Specifically, ADB will work with institutions and SPVs to help them access finance for infrastructure through ADB's guarantees and other products.

Impact: The debt market for infrastructure finance in India is expanded beyond bank loans

Outcome: A commercially viable credit-enhancement product for infrastructure project bonds is established

Outputs:
- Model bond guarantee documentation in place
- Enhanced knowledge base on guarantee structuring in India

Business Opportunities: http://adb.org/projects/details?page=business-opportunities&proj_id=48422-001

MYANMAR

Third Greater Mekong Subregion Corridor Towns Development Project

TA No. : 8758
Project No. : 48175-001
Amount (US $ million) : 1
Sector : Water supply and other municipal infrastructure and services
Subsector : Urban flood protection; Urban policy, institutional and capacity development; Urban sanitation; Urban sewerage; Urban solid waste management; Urban water supply

Responsible ADB Officer: Eri Honda, Southeast Asia Department
Urban Development and Water Division

Status: ADB Board approved on November 20, 2014.

Project details to be determined.

Business opportunities: http://adb.org/projects/details?page=business-opportunities&proj_id=48175-001

REGIONAL

A. Development of Guidance Materials and Screening Tools for Incorporating Disaster Risk Concerns in Country Partnership Strategy and Project Preparation

TA No. : 8752
Project No. : 46250-001
Amount (US $ million) : 0.2
Sector : Multisector
Subsector : ADB's corporate management, policy and strategy development

Responsible ADB Officer: Charlotte Benson, Regional and Sustainable Development Department
Climate Change Coordination & Disaster Risk Management Unit

Status: ADB Board approved on November 7, 2014.

Impact: Strengthened disaster resilience in ADB's developing member countries

Outcome: ADB Country Partnership Strategies and projects systematically consider disaster risk

Outputs:
- Strengthened capacity for disaster risk screening of projects
- Enhanced support for integration of disaster risk into the CPS and project development process

Business opportunities: http://adb.org/projects/details?page=business-opportunities&proj_id=48263-001

B. Mainstreaming Air Quality in Urban Development through South - South Twinning

TA No.	**:**	**8751**
Project No.	**:**	**46250-001**
Amount (US $ million)	**:**	**0.5**
Sector	**:**	**Water supply and other municipal infrastructure and services**
Subsector	**:**	**Urban policy, institutional and capacity development**

Responsible ADB Officer: Vijay Joshi, Regional and Sustainable Development Department
Environment and Safeguards Division

Status: ADB Board approved on November 7, 2014.

Description: The scope of work under the TA includes: (i) assessment of the current status of clean air management at city level and identification of areas for improvement in up to 10 Asian cities; (ii) setting-up of South-South twinning arrangements in six (6) shortlisted cities to facilitate sharing of experiences and good urban air quality management practices between Asian countries and cities; (iii) review policy initiatives and planned actions for air quality improvement in PRC and recommend improvements (iv) organizing country level knowledge exchange on priority actions for air quality management; and (iv) collating and disseminating TA learning in the form a knowledge product on air quality management.

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy: Seven out of 10 cities in developing Asian countries have unhealthy levels of air pollution, when measured as annual levels of particulate matter with size range of not greater than 10 microns (PM10). Recent scientific understanding further highlights the pressing need to address air pollution. Recent estimates from the 2010 Global Burden of Disease (GBD) found that outdoor air pollution is a much more significant public health risk than previously known contributing annually to 2.1 million premature deaths in Asia. This is translated to 52 million years of healthy life lost in Asia alone, with significant economic implications that accounts to 2/3 of the burden worldwide. For the first time, outdoor air pollution is among the top 10 risks worldwide and among the top five or six risks in the developing countries of Asia. In 2013, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) of the World Health Organization (WHO) declared exposure to outdoor air pollution, especially particulate matter, as carcinogenic to humans. The IARC also classified diesel exhaust as a known human carcinogen. Of primary concern is exposure to particulate matter and NOx from older diesel. Diesel emissions also include black carbon which contributes to global warming. More people will be exposed to air pollution as hundreds of millions of people will be added to Asian cities in the next decades. Over 50% of the population now lives in cities, where exposure to roadside air pollution is high. For instance, 55% of the people in Delhi and 76% of people in Beijing are living within 500 meters of a freeway and 50 meters of a major road where exposure are high. Over the next 30 years, another 1.1 billion people are expected to be living in cities. A systematic and integrated air quality management approach is necessary to address the growing air pollution problems. Unfortunately, the status of air quality management in Asian cities vary widely and have not developed quickly enough to respond to the changing urban landscape and evolving challenges in reducing air pollution. Some of the challenges of air quality management in Asian cities include: "Cities need support in identification of effective air quality management measures and their prioritization. This includes assessment of existing resources and allocation of resources, as necessary. "Reliability of air quality monitoring data is poor for several Asian cities because of the lack of technical capacity and support to sustain air quality monitoring systems." Cities still need technical assistance and guidance in conducting their own emissions inventories, source apportionment which are important inputs to effective air quality management. The proposed TA addresses these issues to promote evidence-based long-term planning in air quality management and selection of appropriate strategies. The TA will assess the current status of air quality management in 10 Asian cities, representing different population size, and will set-up South-South twinning arrangements to facilitate sharing and learning of good urban air quality management practices in Asia. The TA will also have a provision to review the air quality management initiatives in People s Republic of China (PRC) and recommend improvements in key policy instruments for their effective implementation. The TA will provide opportunities to promote sharing of experiences and knowledge in air quality management among up to four countries in the region through workshops and working sessions. The participating countries and the beneficiary cities will be encouraged to develop and disseminate policy and project level interventions to improve air quality within their jurisdictions. The TA will make use of the Clean Air Scorecard Tool (CAST) (developed through a previous ADB technical assistance) to assess status of air quality management and to recommend actions for improvement.

Impact: The capacity to manage urban air pollution is enhanced in ADB's developing member countries in Asia through knowledge and experience sharing on urban air quality management among participating Asian countries.

Outcome: City governments in ADB s DMCs in Asia have better understanding of the potential areas for improvement in air quality management.

Outputs:
1. Development and application of selection criteria for participating cities and countries
2. Recommendations on PRC's National Action Plan on Air Pollution Prevention and Control and Road Map for its Implementation Phase 2
3. Assessment of the status of clean air management in up to 10 Asian cities using CAST
4: South-South city twinning arrangements established and air quality management experiences and good practices shared between twinned Asian cities
5. South-South national-level twinning arrangements established and air quality management experiences and good practices shared among participating countries
6. Summarize the learnings of the study in the form of a knowledge product

Business Opportunities: http://adb.org/projects/details?page=business-opportunities&proj_id=46250-001

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Solar Power Development Project

TA No.	**:**	**8756**
Project No.	**:**	**48346-001**
Amount (US $ million)	**:**	**0.5**
Sector	**:**	**Energy**
Subsector	**:**	**Renewable energy generation - solar**

Responsible ADB Officer: Anthony Maxwell, Pacific Department
Transport, Energy and Natural Resources Division

Status: ADB Board approved on November 20, 2014.

Description: The Solar Power Development Project (Project) will support development of solar power in the Solomon Islands. The Project will: (i) decrease the cost of power supply by replacing diesel power generation with solar power, (ii) increase access to power through roll-out of a private sector led fee-for-service model, and (iii) reduce greenhouse gas emissions through development of renewable energy. The Project will install grid-connected solar plants and promote private sector led solar household system (SHS) installation and maintenance companies. The Project is proposed to be financed through a project loan and grant.

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy: Solomon Islands is over-reliant on diesel generation which has resulted in high power tariffs. All grid-connected power generation in Solomon Islands is diesel generated, which has resulted in power tariffs amongst the highest in the Pacific. In June 2013, the national uniform tariff was $0.85/kWh to residential customers and $0.91/kWh to commercial customers. The high cost of electricity and the limited reach of the distribution grid are negatively impacting economic growth. In particular, agricultural and tourism are impeded. Solomon Islands has no installed intermittent renewable energy generation and therefore has limited experience with integration onto existing power grids. Grid-connected electricity is generated and supplied by Solomon Islands Electricity Authority (SIEA), which is a state-owned electricity utility. SIEA provides electricity to the national capital (Honiara) and eight isolated provincial centers on separate islands (Auki, Buala, Gizo, Kirakira, Lata, Malu u, Noro-Munda, and Tulagi). Installed capacity in Honiara is 26MW (peak load 14.3MW) and combined installed generation capacity in the provincial centers is 4MW. As 100% of grid-connected electricity is diesel generated, SIEA has no experience or human resource capacity in managing intermittent renewable energy integration into the grid. This lack of experience is a barrier to upscaling renewable energy. The Project includes constructing a total of 2MW grid-connected solar generation at 4 locations on the SIEA grid (Lungga diesel powerplant site, SIEA office, 2 outstations). The solar plants will be owned and operated by SIEA. Increased solar generation will benefit the economy through: (i) reduced importation of fossil fuels, (ii) improved energy security, and (iii) reduced tariff volatility due to partial conversion of the national grid to renewable energy. Utilization of renewable energy also reduces greenhouse gas emissions which contribute to global warming. In order to establish the enabling environment for grid-connected solar power, the Project will include: (i) training of SIEA staff in operation and maintenance of solar plants, including grid integration, and (ii) preparation of a grid integration analysis. The Project will provide SIEA with experience in solar power generation and contribute to subsequent upscaling of solar power. The project will also transform local supply chains to supply and maintain the assets. Electricity access is extremely low in Solomon Islands. Solomon Islands has a total population of 512,870 and the capital Honiara, located in Guadalcanal has a population of 64,609 (13% total population). Grid-connected electricity is supplied to approximately 12% of the population on a national basis. The overall access rate in Honiara urban area is 64%; however, access in the remainder of the country is 6%, with 5 out of 9 provinces having access rates below 4%. The main reasons for the low access rates are (i) difficult geography and dispersed small size of population centers, (ii) lack of Government community service obligation funding for grid extensions, (iii) high cost of diesel power generation in the provincial centers which provides a disincentive to SIEA to expand the distribution network (where cost of generation exceeds national tariff), and (iv) low capacity to pay in some areas. Due to dispersed nature of the population and difficulty with physical access options for grid extension are limited. The current solar household system (SHS) supply and maintenance system is unsustainable. Over the past 2 decades there have been a significant number of household systems given to households for free as part of donor supported projects or politically funded distribution schemes. Surveys and anecdotal evidence indicates that the majority of these systems are not maintained adequately, fail in a relatively short period, and do not deliver anticipated development impacts. There is a nascent industry of equipment suppliers and system maintenance providers established in Solomon Islands; however, the market is distorted by the grant nature of the current funding system. The current system is unsustainable due to: (i) lack of private sector involvement in the supply and maintenance of the solar home system equipment, (ii) lack of standards for solar equipment, (iii) absence of battery recycling system, (iv) lack of trained technicians for system maintenance, (v) lack of incentives for households to properly maintain equipment which was provided free of charge and expectations by households for free replacement systems, (vi) intermittent household incomes for regular maintenance payments for household solar systems, and (vii) distributed population centers and low economies of scale for service providers. The Project includes a private sector fee-for-service model to install, own, operate and maintain household solar systems for rural households. The Project will design the model, undertake capacity building and partially subsidize equipment costs. Ownership of the household solar systems will remain with the private sector and households will pay an upfront fee for operation and maintenance and partial asset depreciation. This will address: (i) irregular income generation in rural areas, (ii) need for regular external maintenance, and (iii) difficulties with tariff collection from remote locations. Requiring households to pay for electricity services (below current costs of kerosene) will improve ownership of the systems and address the lack of ownership demonstrated with free systems. The Project will include: (i) competitive bidding for private sector to own and operate household solar system assets, (ii) development of solar standards, (iii) training of private sector in business management, and (iv) training of households in income generation through electricity, electricity safety and household budget management. The Project will benefit new households through: (i) replacing kerosene lighting with a cheaper form of energy, thereby freeing household expenditure, (ii) enable household income generation, (iii) improved children education, and (iv) reduced indoor health and safety issues associated with burning firewood and kerosene. Project benefits will be extended through employment of local communities during the construction period. The project supports Solomon Islands National Development Strategy 2011-2020, which prioritizes renewable energy and increasing electricity access. The proposed project supports Solomon Islands National Energy Policy Framework, 2007 and the Draft National Energy Policy Framework, 2013, which both prioritize renewable energy. The project supports the draft Solomon Islands Renewable Energy Investment Plan, 2013.

Business opportunities: http://adb.org/projects/details?page=business-opportunities&proj_id=48346-001

TURKMENISTAN

Financial Sector Reforms

TA No.	**:**	**8755**
Project No.	**:**	**46113-001**
Amount (US $ million)	**:**	**0.5**
Sector	**:**	**Finance**
Subsector	**:**	**Banking systems and nonbank financial institutions**

Responsible ADB Officer: Anna Charlotte Schou-Zibell
Central and West Asia Department
Public Management, Financial Sector and Trade Division

Status: ADB Board approved on November 12, 2014.

Description: The technical assistance (TA) will support the Central Bank of Turkmenistan (CBT) in developing modern, best practice legislation on e- signatures and deposit insurance, as well as implementing rules and regulations for e-signatures, deposit insurance, and microfinance.

Impact and Outcome: The impact will be an improved legal framework for delivery of financial services in Turkmenistan. The outcome will be the commencement of the legislative process for draft laws on deposit insurance and e-signatures.

Methodology and Key Activities: The TA will deliver two outputs: i. Capacity of Central Bank of Turkmenistan staff in deposit insurance, e-signatures, and microfinance strengthened. The TA will finance training of CBT staff in international best practice and principles for deposit insurance (including the principles of the International Association of Deposit Insurers), e-signatures, microfinance, rules and procedures for quality legal drafting, and quality assurance checks. International consultants will provide best practice and examples, and counterpart drafting teams will consist of national experts. ii. New laws (deposit insurance and e-signatures) and implementing rules and regulations (deposit insurance, e-signatures, and microfinance) finalized. The TA will: (a) review existing legal frameworks, and assess and recommend applicability of international best practice and principles on deposit insurance and e-signatures; (b) conduct consultations on incorporating international best practice and principles into deposit insurance and e-signatures with the CBT and other national stakeholders; (c) support the CBT team in preparing draft laws for deposit insurance and e-signatures; (d) support the CBT team in preparing implementing rules and regulations for deposit insurance, e-signatures, and the Law on Microfinance Institutions and Microfinance; (e) conduct validation workshops to present draft laws and implementing rules and regulations to relevant stakeholders; (f) conduct quality assurance checks; and

(g) finalize draft laws and implementing rules and regulations. Discussion of regulations and implementation of laws, along with related legislation and how it may need to be aligned with changing local conditions, will be important. International consultants will work with national counterparts from the CBT and other agencies CBT may designate. The partner process will involve information sharing, legislation drafting, on-the-job training, and formal training sessions by consultants. CBT and government lawyers will, in cooperation with consultants, manage the structure and format of the legislation, and align existing and planned laws with implementing rules and regulations.

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy: Turkmenistan's economy grew 10.2% in 2013, and gross domestic product (GDP) per capita has more than tripled since 2003 to reach the level of upper middle-income economies. Economic growth has been based on hydrocarbon exports and public spending on infrastructure. Oil and gas production and exports are expected to increase in 2014, providing continued funding for the public sector and subsidies for basic goods and services. GDP is forecast to grow 10.7% in 2014 and 12.5% in 2015 with increased public investment and gas exports to the People s Republic of China. Inflation is projected at 5.7% in 2014 and 6.0% in 2015. The financial system comprises 12 banks (of which 6 are state-owned and target specific sectors such as agriculture and construction), a nascent securities market, and two insurance companies. The State Development Bank of Turkmenistan has been operating since September 2011. Banks collaborating with financial services companies, including Western Union, provide remittance services. Banks dominate the financial system in volume and value of activity. While most bank lending is to state-owned enterprises, credit to the private sector is growing. Government-sponsored programs encourage the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises and agriculture. Building and strengthening financial infrastructure and increasing access to finance are high on Turkmenistan's development agenda. The CBT is creating better financial market infrastructure for more active private sector engagement in the economy. New banking legislation, regulation, and supervision will improve investments and help broaden growth and financial access. The gradual shift from directed lending to risk-based lending is an important step towards this. All banks are adopting International Financial Reporting Standards. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) noted progress in these areas as well as on the Anti-Money-Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism arrangements. The IMF provided suggestions on reducing bank sector segmentation and interest rate controls, as well as improving statistical standards and data availability. The government recognizes the need to support private sector development and economic diversification. While large hydrocarbon exports have produced strong economic growth over the past decade, it has also stifled economic diversification. The government aims to increase the private sector s share in the non-hydrocarbon economy from 47.0% in 2010 to 70.0% by 2020. It targets private sector development in construction, transportation, and wholesale and retail trade, as well as agro-industrial processing. Development and financing of non-hydrocarbon value chains is a challenge. An expanded, accessible, and efficient finance sector is necessary to facilitate diversified private sector development. The government expects to modernize banking and the financial system to increase their contribution to overall economic restructuring. In particular, the government wants financial institutions to provide an array of financial services and products to small and medium-sized enterprises. The CBT is committed to improving the legal environment for the finance sector and has announced a variety of laws to be created and submitted to Parliament. Deposit insurance is in place, but the legal and regulatory framework needs strengthening. The authorities aim to develop regulations to implement the recent microfinance and credit union laws, and to create new institutions for microfinance. A wide range of legislation will be created by 2017 for which development partner assistance is needed. The government takes about 1 year from the initial plan to the passage of laws. Three major laws have been completed and enacted in 2011 covering the central bank, credit institutions and banking activity, and foreign exchange regulation and control. Current priorities include developing laws on e-signatures and deposit insurance, as well as implementing rules and regulations for e-signatures, deposit insurance, and microfinance. Jointly with other interested public agencies, the CBT will draft laws consistent with international best practice. The authorities seek ADB support in the form of high-quality international consultants to provide capacity building and policy and advisory support on best practice context and examples.

Impact: Improved legal framework for delivery of financial services in Turkmenistan

Outcome: Legislative process commenced for draft laws on deposit insurance and e-signatures

Outputs:
- Capacity of CBT staff in deposit insurance, e-signature, and microfinance strengthened
- New laws (deposit insurance and e-signatures), and implementing rules and regulations (deposit insurance, e-signatures, and microfinance) finalized

Business opportunities: http://adb.org/projects/details?page=business-opportunities&proj_id=46113-001

IV. GRANT

NAURU

Electricity Supply Security and Sustainability

Grant No.	:	**0414**
TA No.	:	**8754**
Project No.	:	**46455-002**
Amount (US $ million)	:	**3.1**
Sector	:	**Energy**
Subsector	:	**Energy utility services**

Responsible ADB Officer: J. Michael Trainor
Pacific Department, Transport, Energy and Natural Resources Division

Status: ADB Board approved on November 7, 2014.

Project details to be determined.

Business opportunities: http://adb.org/projects/details?page=business-opportunities&proj_id=46455-002

THAILAND

Community-Based Flood Risk Management and Disaster Response in the Chao Phraya Basin

Grant No.	:	**9179**
Project No.	:	**46270-002**
Amount (US $ million)	:	**2**
Sector	:	**Water supply and other municipal infrastructure and services**
Subsector	:	**Water and other urban infrastructure and services**

Responsible ADB Officer: Michael E. White
Southeast Asia Department, Urban Development and Water Division

Status: ADB Board approved on October 22, 2014.

Impact: Reduced vulnerability and improved resilience of local communities to future floods.

Outcome: Improved community-based flood risk management in the Chao Phraya River basin

Outputs:
1. Community-based flood risk management program established.
2. Community-based flood prevention and protection improvements implemented.

Business opportunities: http://adb.org/projects/details?page=business-opportunities&proj_id=46270-002

V. ASSISTANCE TO PRIVATE SECTOR

INDIA

Strengthening Rural Financial Inclusion and Farmer Access to Markets (Axis Bank and Yes Bank)

Approval No. : LN7062-01
Project No. : 48278-001
Amount (US $ million) : 200
Sector : Finance
Subsector : Finance sector development; Inclusive finance

Responsible ADB Officer: Pamela Bracey, Private Sector Operations Department
Private Sector Financial Institutions Division

Status: ADB Board approved on November 18, 2014.

Description: The assistance includes two senior unsecured loans, both up to $200 million to Axis Bank Limited (ABL) and YES Bank Limited (YBL) and a capacity development technical assistance grant of up to $2 million to both ABL and YBL. Both banks will lend the Indian rupee equivalent amount of ADB's aggregate loan disbursements to eligible borrowers to finance working capital and investment loans targeting: (i) small farm households, and (ii) rural women, organized in either savings or credit self-help groups (SHGs). The technical assistance will be used by the banks: (i) to enhance the supervision and monitoring of their business correspondents, including their internal controls; (ii) to improve the financial literacy of business correspondent-affiliated women SHGs; and (iii) to continue the development of financial service products linking small farmers to markets and loan products targeted to specific regional crops for small farmers.

Objectives and Scope: ADB's assistance will contribute towards the following objectives:
(i) Support of scalable lending models for priority sectors and inclusive agriculture growth. The current level of commercial bank lending to agriculture in India remains inadequate and limited access to finance for the rural population constrains their ability to undertake critical investments to improve yields and income. By channeling funds and providing TA to ABL and YBL for lending to small farmers and rural women, ADB's support will not only contribute appreciably towards both banks efforts to meet priority sector lending targets, but also signal to the market and catalyze more local bank finance to support the development of this important sector, helping to alleviate rural poverty.
(ii) Strengthening the banking sector by providing bank access to long-term funding. ADB s loans will make a sizeable contribution to ABL and YBL's funding in support of rural financial inclusion.
(iii) Technical assistance. ADB's TA will directly complement ADB's credit lines, supporting the buildup of both banks inclusive business strategies via business correspondents and targeted lending products to small farmers, using innovative approaches for linking them to markets. ADB's TA will help improve the integrity of credit data at the farmer level, and enhance credit assessment and risk management at both banks, which will benefit farmers with improved access to credit. With ADB's assistance, the banks business models can become scalable and replicable flagship initiatives to support inclusive and commercially viable approaches to funding farmers and women borrowers through SHGs.
(iv) Effective gender mainstreaming. The assistance includes a comprehensive approach to improve YBL s ability to reach an additional 2.5 million rural, low-income women. This includes women's awareness of financial planning, savings, and borrowing for their farm and household needs as reflected in the gender action plan.

Business opportunities: http://adb.org/projects/details?page=business-opportunities&proj_id=48278-001

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