

Final Workshop on the Country Studies on Economic Corridor Development and Background Paper on The Future of RCI in Asia and the Pacific

Background

Strategy 2020 of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) recognizes the need for Asia and the Pacific to pursue “open regionalism,” keeping trade and investment links open with the rest of the world.¹ ADB’s Strategy 2020 also aims to increase regional cooperation and integration (RCI) in all operational areas, and increase assistance for RCI to at least 30% of total activities by 2020. In view of the developments in the regional economic landscape, the ADB Midterm Review of Strategy 2020 highlighted the need for a “second generation RCI” agenda and reiterated the 30% target.² This technical assistance (TA) will support the implementation of the midterm review’s recommendations by producing operationally-relevant knowledge work to guide ADB’s future operations in RCI.

The TA will produce two major knowledge products: (i) a thematic study on economic corridors, which will feature country case studies on economic corridor development in Malaysia and Thailand; and (ii) a background paper on the Future of RCI in Asia and the Pacific, which will incorporate the findings and recommendations of the thematic study. An inception workshop was held on 16 May 2016 at the ADB Headquarters Manila to kick off the research work.

Objectives of the Final Workshop

A final workshop will be held on 25 May 2017 to (i) present and solicit comments on the country studies; and (ii) discuss the proposed coverage of the background and synthesis paper. Workshop participants will include the international consultants preparing the studies and background/synthesis paper, and representatives from ERCD and the Regional Departments.

¹ ADB. 2008. *Strategy 2020: The Long-Term Strategic Framework of the Asian Development Bank, 2008–2020*. Manila.

² ADB. 2014. *Midterm Review of Strategy 2020: Meeting the Challenges of a Transforming Asia and Pacific*. Manila.

**Final Workshop on the Country Studies on Economic Corridor Development and
Background Paper on The Future of RCI in Asia and the Pacific
25 May 2017, ERCD Conference Room (Room 7217/18 North)**

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| 1:15– 1:30 PM | Registration |
| 1:30 – 1:45 PM | Chairperson: Juzhong Zhuang, Deputy Chief Economist Opening Remarks and Introduction of Participants Arjun Goswami, Technical Advisor Regional Cooperation and Integration, Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department (ERCD) |
| 1:45 – 2:15 PM | Thailand’s Automotive Manufacturing Corridor Peter Warr, John Crawford Professor of Agricultural Economics, and Director, Poverty Research Centre Australian National University <i>Comments on the Paper</i> |
| 2:15 – 2:25 PM | Discussant 1: Cuong Minh Nguyen Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division Southeast Asia Department |
| 2:25 – 2:35 PM | Discussant 2: Utsav Kumar, Economist Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division South Asia Department |
| 2:35 – 2:45 PM | <i>Open Discussion</i> |
| 2:45 – 3:15 PM | Economic Corridors and Regional Development: The Malaysian Experience Premachandra Athukorala, Professor of Economics Arndt-Corden Department of Economics, Australian National University <i>Comments on the Paper</i> |
| 3:15 – 3:25 PM | Discussant 1: Rana Hasan, Director Development Economics and Indicators Division, ERCD |
| 3:25 – 3:35 PM | Discussant 2: Jong Woo Kang, Principal Economist Regional Cooperation and Integration Division, ERCD |
| 3:35 – 3:45 PM | Open Discussion |
| 3:45 – 4:00 PM | Coffee Break |
| 4:00 – 4:30 PM | Background Paper on the Future of RCI in Asia and the Pacific: Proposed Coverage Hal Hill, Professor of Economics Arndt-Corden Department of Economics, Australian National University |
| 4:30 – 5:00 PM | Open Discussion |
| 5:00 – 5:15 PM | Workshop Summary and Next Steps Jayant Menon, Lead Economist (Trade and Regional Cooperation) Office of the Chief Economist and Director-General, ERCD |