

TERMS OF REFERENCE

TITLE

Water Supply and Sanitation Specialist in the Asian Development Bank (ADB)

DEPARTMENT/DIVISION

Regional and Sustainable Development (RSDD)/Sustainable Infrastructure Division (RSID)

LOCATION

Manila, Philippines

DURATION

Two years, with the possibility of a third-year extension if the professional performs satisfactorily

BACKGROUND

Strategy 2020 which guides ADB's overall operations nominates five core areas of specialization based on ADB's comparative advantage and available resources. One of the core areas is infrastructure which covers, among others, water and sanitation. It articulates that to contribute to public health, ADB will invest in water, sanitation and waste management systems. Specifically in urban infrastructure, ADB will focus on water supply, sanitation and waste management.

Recent Millennium Development Goals reports indicate that for the Asia Pacific region, targets for water supply are likely to be met for urban areas but much less for rural communities. Urban water supply and sanitation services are generally still underperforming. While services might seem to be almost at coverage above 70 to 80% or even more, the quality is problematic and operations generally inefficient.

Urban water supply has received much support from ADB over the past. Such support will continue, however, targeting of such support will be focused on improving their performance, i.e. improving efficiency, addressing water quality and reducing wastage than expanding their infrastructure. Urban sanitation will also continue to be a priority considering the 300 million people estimated shortfall in coverage by 2015.

The bigger challenge lies in rural water supply and sanitation and ADB seeks to provide innovative ways to increase support to this subsector.

TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Water Supply and Sanitation Specialist will report to the Director of Sustainable Infrastructure Division (RSID) under Regional and Sustainable Development Department (RSDD), and will work in close collaboration with Specialists in RSDD and project officers in regional departments (RDs) involved in water supply and sanitation.

The specialist will be based in Manila, Philippines, however, in-country missions may be undertaken, as necessary, to allow participation in discussions with government clients particularly during project preparation.

The specialist is expected to provide expert inputs for the following activities:

- Water supply and sanitation project preparation and implementation, particularly in Developing Member Countries in Southeast Asia and Central and West Asia
- Policy dialogue with governments that may be deemed necessary to create the enabling environment for improved delivery of water supply and sanitation services
- Assisting governments in improving the regulatory environment and promoting public-private partnerships
- Developing and disseminating knowledge products and tools such as those identified as priorities by the Water Committee's Urban Water Stream and Sanitation Action Group, e.g. discussion paper on non revenue water reduction, policy brief on subsidies, etc.
- Assessing ADB's performance in rural water supply and sanitation and developing strategies to facilitate increased lending and non lending support
- Increasing ADB's lending in sanitation and wastewater management, including assessing the potential for scaling up wastewater re-use, available and emerging technologies and river clean-up.
- Evaluation of investment operations in water supply and sanitation
- Assistance in designing a program of ADB support to improving performance of water utilities in the region.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Bachelor degree in civil and sanitary engineering or other related fields, preferably in post-graduate level
- A minimum of 8 years relevant experience covering policy formation, project design and implementation
- Additional experience of at least 2 years in working directly with water utilities and working in developing countries, especially Asia, would be preferable
- Demonstrated experience in working independently to undertake analysis and project preparation and supervision
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English
- Good inter-personal skills and willingness to work in teams in a multicultural environment