Regional workshop on
Resource Mobilization for Sustainable Development
in the Asia-Pacific Countries in Special Situations

Session 1: ESCAP Resource Mobilization project’s overview

14 December 2021

Yusuke Tateno
Section on Countries in Special Situations
Office of the Executive Secretary
**Project overview**

**Title:** Supporting the countries with special needs in Asia-Pacific in meeting the challenge of resource mobilization for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

**Objective:** To strengthen the capacity of policymakers in selected Asia-Pacific CSN to identify financing gaps and formulate policies and strategies for SDG attainment

**Main target countries:** Bhutan, Cambodia and Vanuatu

**Implementation period:** March 2018 to December 2021
### 3 phases and 3 components

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Phase 1: Assessment of financing gaps and identification of priority areas</th>
<th>Phase 2: Formulation of policies and strategies</th>
<th>Phase 3: Implementation of policies and strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>COVID-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Component 1:** Analytical products (national and group-specific)

**Component 2:** Capacity building workshops (national & group-specific)

**Component 3:** Technical advisory services
**Key themes identified**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National</th>
<th>Group-specific</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cambodia:</strong></td>
<td><strong>LDCs:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Improving access to <strong>finance by MSMEs</strong></td>
<td>• Strengthening <strong>financing for MSMEs</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Improving budget <strong>expenditure efficiency</strong></td>
<td>• Developing more efficient and inclusive <strong>tax system</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Establishing legal and regulatory framework</td>
<td>• Enhancing access to <strong>climate financing</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for <strong>PPPs</strong></td>
<td>• Leveraging <strong>ODA</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bhutan:</strong></td>
<td><strong>LLDCs:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Developing and implementing a concrete plan</td>
<td>• Developing and strengthening <strong>capital market</strong> for infrastructure investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of action as an international adviser to help</td>
<td>• Enhancing access to <strong>finance for SMEs</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhutan to develop its <strong>sovereign bond market</strong></td>
<td>• Introducing possible <strong>innovative financial instruments</strong> include remittance bonds, citizen bonds, fintech, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vanuatu:</strong></td>
<td><strong>SIDS:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Developing a transition <strong>strategy for LDC graduation</strong></td>
<td>• Enhancing access to <strong>climate-related funds</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Improved access to external finance, including <strong>climate finance</strong></td>
<td>• Exploring the potential of <strong>green bonds</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Improving <strong>MSME access to finance</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Increasing <strong>fintech</strong> usage to provide access to formal financial services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Main recommendations

- **Capital markets**: Enhancing sovereign bonds issuance, which will pave the way to stronger capital markets
- **Digital solutions**: Enhancing digital finance services (DFS) and financial technologies (fintech) to accelerate financial inclusion
- **Climate finance**: Exploring thematic bonds issuance, climate funds and 'green fees' to ensure sustainable development
Summary of outputs

Quality analytical works and outputs
• 21 country/thematic studies; 7 published

Positive post-workshop feedback
• 15 national/group-specific workshops
• Positive rating from >80% of the participants

Wide representation and large turnout
• Over 20 CSS; over 700 participants

Networking and partnerships
• Local/international partners (Ministries, banks, ADB, JICA, IFC/WB, PIFS, etc.)
• UNCTs, UNRCs, and other UN agencies (OHRLLS, UNCDF, UNDP, UNICEF, etc.)

COVID-19 response
“Bhutan issues first sovereign bond to meet increasing fiscal financing needs in fighting COVID-19” September 2020

• Three-year domestic bonds of USD 41 million (or Nu. 3 billion)
• Oversubscription of 300%
• ESCAP assistance included:
  • Establishing a bond working committee;
  • Developing bond issuance rules and regulations;
  • Conducting workshops, study tours and consultations; and
  • Provision of relevant pre-issuance services
“UN and Vanuatu discuss national strategy and resource mobilization for smooth transition from LDC status,” Vanuatu Daily Post, November 2019
“Vanuatu Smooth Transition Strategy developed,” Vanuatu Daily Post, November 2020

ESCAP assistance included:

- Providing advisory services in developing the transition strategy
- Developing national papers that suggest policy actions to enhance resource mobilization
- Conducting workshops and engaging with former LDCs, to discuss suggested policy actions to be included in the strategy
THANK YOU

Follow us

- www.unescap.org
- Facebook: unescap
- Instagram: unitednationescap
- LinkedIn: united-nations-escap
- Twitter: unescap
- YouTube: unescap