

Improving Delivery of Infrastructure Services in the Pacific - a Project for the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and managed by Globalworks, (USA) (June 2006-Nov 2007).

Tasman Asia Pacific, through Dr Michael Porter, has the assignment relating to private sector partnerships and developing private sector finance and structures to promote efficient development of infrastructure across the Pacific.

The overall title of the project is “Improving Delivery of Infrastructure Services in the Pacific” and it involves consultations with all the following 14 countries: **[Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Cook Islands, Nauru, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu, The Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea]**, Other Pacific countries may be involved in the assessment. Inception meetings have already been held with PNG, Fiji, Samoa, and Tonga as well as agencies and some private sector companies in the region.

Other agencies in the field are also part of the consultation process, as are key private sector players interested in infrastructure development in the Pacific, particularly in the areas of communications, water, energy and telecommunications.

The outcome of the Regional Technical Assistance is to be a deeper and more integrated understanding of;

- (i) The constraints to infrastructure service delivery in the Pacific and the economic and social impacts that these constraints impose;
- (ii) In-depth perspectives of key Pacific stakeholders on the current state of infrastructure services and the priorities for improving them;
- (iii) The totality of country- and donor-financed infrastructure support programs (whether focused on physical investment, institutional reform, or associated policy development);
- (iv) The capacity, interest, and potential for public-private partnerships in infrastructure service delivery;
- (v) The current status of relevant regulatory arrangements, tariff reviews, and policy formulation, and the need and priorities for regional services to support their development; and,
- (vi) In the inception phase, a detailed assessment (“benchmarking”) of the status and performance of selected infrastructure sub-sectors (water supply and sanitation, electrical power, roads, ports/maritime and telecommunications) in nominated countries.

To quote from the ADB documents, “The RETA will result in a regional, cross-country, cross-sector, and cross-donor knowledge and understanding of the issues, constraints, and priorities for improving infrastructure service delivery in the Pacific.

This will enable a fully informed, rational, and efficient regional infrastructure strategy to be proposed and (following extensive consultations at the country and regional levels) established by the RETA that genuinely reflects the aspirations of the region and its governments, and puts the combined capacities available to support infrastructure to their most advantageous use.”