**TC ABSTRACT**

**I. Basic Project Data**

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| ▪ Country/Region: | REGIONAL/Regional |
| ▪ TC Name: | Korea-LAC Tech Corps Program |
| ▪ TC Number: | RG-T3174 |
| ▪ Team Leader/Members: | ACOSTA, GEOVANA (IFD/CTI) Team Leader; GONZALEZ ALZUALDE, YOHANA BEATRIZ (IFD/CTI); GARCIA LOPEZ, ROBERTO JUAN (IFD/FMM); HENNIG, BETINA TIRELLI (LEG/LEG); SMALDONE, MARIA LAURA (BDA/ACP); KIM, SEOJEONG (IFD/IFD) |
| ▪ Taxonomy: | Research and Dissemination |
| ▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC: | N/A |
| ▪ Date of TC Abstract: | 07 Aug 2018 |
| ▪ Beneficiary: | LAC |
| ▪ Executing Agency: | INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK |
| ▪ IDB funding requested: | $ 3,000,000.00 |
| ▪ Local counterpart funding: | $ 345,000.00 (Cash) |
| ▪ Disbursement period: | 36 months |
| ▪ Types of consultants: | Individuals; Firms |
| ▪ Prepared by Unit: | Competitiveness, Technology and Innovation Division |
| ▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility: | Institutions for Development |
| ▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n): ▪ TC included in CPD (y/n): | No No |
| ▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020: | Productivity and innovation ; Institutional capacity and rule of law |

**II. Objective and Justification**

2.1 This Technical Cooperation (TC) aims to contribute to building human and institutional capacity in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) countries in areas of knowledge where Korea has competitive advantage, especially Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

2.2 Specifically, this program will: (i) enhance the institutional capacity of the LAC public sector by providing LAC mid-level public officials with full scholarships to pursue a Master’s degree in Public Management or Public Policy with an ICT-related focus (including, among others, e-government, digital economy, science and technology development) in Korea; and (ii) stimulate innovation in LAC countries by deploying Korean young professionals with ICT expertise to support ICT-related projects in LAC countries and/or develop ICT-based solutions tailored to the business needs of LAC countries.

**III. Description of Activities and Outputs**

3.1 Component 1. LAC Tech Corps. This component will finance 20-25 scholarships for mid-level public officials from all 26 borrowing member countries in LAC. The ultimate number of scholarships will be subject to the final budget and financial contribution from Korean host universities. These scholarships will cover the full tuition for a Master’s degree in public management or public policy with ICT-related specializations or other relevant areas with an ICT focus; and will include accommodation, monthly allowance for living expenses, educational materials, health insurance, travel to and from Korea, and other related eligible expenses. All degree courses will be conducted in English for a period of 16-18 months. Host universities in Korea are expected to make a partial financial contribution to these scholarships. The number of host institutions will be subject to the final budget and the number of scholarships.

3.2 This component will also finance consulting services and other activities for the overall management of the LAC Tech Corps. The overall management will encompass the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the program, including the selection of host universities; promotion and coordination of the program in Korea and LAC countries; monitoring and management of the program, among others.

3.3 Component 2. Korea Tech Corps. This component will finance 20-30 Korean young professional officers (KPO) with expertise in ICT-related areas, preferably a Master’s degree with an ICT background or 3 years of relevant work experience. The ultimate number of KPOs will be subject to the final KPO cost and effective demand. Background requirement for KPOs will be also determined based on specific demand. The KPOs will support ICT-related projects in LAC countries and/or develop ICT-based solutions tailored to specific business needs of both public and private institutions. The program will cover honorarium, accommodation, health insurance, training program, travel from and to Korea, and other related expenses. The KPOs will be deployed in public agencies or private companies in selected LAC countries for a period of 12 months. IFD/CTI Specialist at the Country Offices will support the coordination of KPOs and supervise their performance. A training program will be provided in Korea and LAC countries for 2-3 months to facilitate KPOs’ cultural and professional immersion.

3.4 This component will also finance consulting services and other activities for the overall management of the Korea Tech Corps. The overall management will encompass the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the program, including the identification of job opportunities in LAC countries; promotion and coordination of the program in Korea and LAC countries; selection of KPOs and supply-demand matching; monitoring and management of the program, among others.

3.5 **Component I: LAC Tech Corps.** This component will finance 20-25 scholarships for mid-level public officials from all 26 borrowing member countries in LAC to pursue a Master’s degree in public management or public policy with ICT-related specializations for a period of 16-18 months. This component will also finance consulting services and other activities for the overall management of the LAC Tech Corps.

3.6 **Component II: Korea Tech Corps.** This component will finance 20-30 Korean young professional officers (KPO) with expertise in ICT-related areas to be deployed public agencies or private companies in selected LAC countries for a period of 12 months. This component will also finance consulting services and other activities for the overall management of the Korea Tech Corps.

**IV. Budget**

**Indicative Budget**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity/Component** | **IDB/Fund Funding** | **Counterpart Funding** | **Total Funding** |
| LAC Tech Corps | $ 1,000,000.00 | $ 345,000.00 | $ 1,345,000.00 |
| Korea Tech Corps | $ 2,000,000.00 | $ 0.00 | $ 2,000,000.00 |

**V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure**

5.1 The Bank will execute overall management of the TC through IFD/CTI. For the scholarship component, Korean education institutions will be competitively selected as host universities pursuant to the respective policies and procedures of the Bank. The IFD/CTI will closely coordinate activities with selected host universities, beneficiary agencies in LAC countries, scholarship recipients and KPOs, and other relevant institutions and consultants.

5.2 IFD/CTI will be responsible for the preparation, implementation and management of the program, given the regional nature and scope of this program and IFD/CTI's expertise in the execution of technology- and innovation-oriented projects.

**VI. Project Risks and Issues**

6.1 For the LAC Tech Corps, there is a risk associated to the scholarship recipients’ actual return to the public sector of their respective countries. To mitigate this risk, a written commitment of each beneficiary student’s government to guarantee the employment of the student in the public sector upon their return will be requested as a critical requirement for the student selection process.

6.2 For the Korea Tech Corps, there is a risk related to the effective selection of KPOs and appropriate matching of supply-demand. To select and deploy KPOs tailored to the business needs, more specific requirements and terms of reference will be determined based on effective demand to be identified during the mapping process of job opportunities.

**VII. Environmental and Social Classification**

7.1 The ESG classification for this operation is "undefined".