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ADB to fund sector skills councils of NSDC

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ASIAN Development Bank will offer \$1.1 million technical assistance (TA) to the Sector Skill Councils (SSC) initiative of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). ADB will provide this fund to assist NSDC establish one sector skills council (SSC) each in services sectors, such as healthcare and infrastructure (transport and logistics or construction).

These SSCs eventually will operate as autonomous bodies or can be registered as a Section 25 company or a public limited company. The ADB fund under the TA scheme will also support two states (as pilots) in linking their skills development missions more effectively with the new, PPPdriven skill development initiatives being promoted by NSDC and other government-run schemes at the national level.

According to ADB officials, the **TA programme will be implemented over 24 months** with expected commencement in January, 2012, and completion in January, 2014.

Similar initiatives have already been successfully adopted by a number of countries including Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Netherlands, South Africa and the UK for addressing their human resource development needs.

The National Skills Policy 2009 was aimed at providing skills to 500 million people by 2022 by creating skills systems that have a high degree of inclusiveness in terms of gender and rural versus urban, organised versus unorganized and traditional versus contemporary jobs. **The NSDC board has approved funding for setting up SSCs in segments like auto, banking, BFSI, energy, healthcare, IT/ITeS, media and entertainment, private security and retail.**