Title of the assignment: Individual Consultant to conduct study on “Regional Integration, Trade and Inclusive Growth in Africa”

Brief Description of the assignment: Boosting intra-African trade remains critical to sustainable inclusive growth on the continent. However, the continent’s difficult and fragmented economic geography presents a major challenge for the region’s integration and expanding market access and fostering inclusive growth. Agglomeration and spill-over effects of regional integration can increase market size resulting in economies of scale, effective regional value chains across different sectors, and hence growth. However, if not accompanied by well-designed compensatory measures, free trade can also produce undesirable effects, including labour dislocations and other adjustment costs, and there could be spatial as well as sectoral impacts, affecting different categories of workers. The ECMR therefore seeks to recruit a consultant to conduct an empirically rigorous and analytically sound study on the interplay between regional integration, trade and inclusive growth.

Department/Division making the request: ECMR/ECMR.1
Place of assignment: Abidjan, Cote D’Ivoire but consultant’s location is possible
Period of assignment: 22nd January to 21st March 2018
Expected start date of the assignment: 22nd January 2018
Last date for expressing interest: 27th December 2017
Expression of interest to be submitted to: v aka@afdb.org & y yoon@afdb.org

Any questions/clarifications could be send to: y yoon@afdb.org

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Regional Integration, Trade and Inclusive Growth in Africa

I. BACKGROUND AND MOTIVATION

Boosting intra-African trade remains critical to sustainable inclusive growth on the continent. However, the continent’s difficult and fragmented economic geography presents a major challenge for the region’s integration and expanding market access and fostering inclusive growth. Geographic fragmentation is reinforced by a lack of regional infrastructure networks that connect people and places across the continent, making trade exceedingly burdensome. It is estimated that Africa incurs up to 40 per cent in costs associated with intra-regional trade while the cost of distributing Africa’s imports from the rest of the world to domestic customers is 50 per cent higher than in other developing regions of the world. Therefore, poor regional infrastructure network is also a cause of Africa’s spatial poverty. Agglomeration and spill-over effects of regional integration can increase market size, resulting in economies of scale, effective regional value chains across different sectors, and hence growth. Africa is also characterised by a narrow production structure and the concentration of exports in few primary commodities. Export concentration is a product of Africa’s de-
industrialisation over the past decades, which has led to a shrinking of the region’s share of global manufacturing. Deepening regional integration can therefore stimulate product diversification, and induce competitive pressures and dynamic gains through economies of scale and higher productivity, resulting in corresponding increase in employment and improved household welfare. However, free trade, if not accompanied by well-designed compensatory measures, can also produce undesirable effects, including labour dislocations and other adjustment costs, and there could be spatial as well as sectoral impacts, affecting different categories of workers.

Therefore, increasing the benefits of regional integration to society rests on participating governments to design domestic labour market and other policies that upgrade skills and promote sectoral reallocation of workers and resources to more productive uses without incurring large social disruptions. In particular, supporting labour mobility through institutional and structural reforms could strengthen the diffusion of the gains and losses from trade liberalization. These compensation measures should be designed in such a way that they address distortions through promotion of efficiency.

In view of the foregoing, the Macroeconomic Policy, Forecasting and Research Department (ECMR) of the African Development Bank (AfDB) is seeking to recruit an individual consultant to conduct a study on the “Role of regional integration, trade in fostering inclusive growth in Africa”. This paper will be a chapter of a book on inclusive growth in Africa and Korea, a product of a collaborative project on “Inclusive Growth (IG) in Africa: Lessons from Korea”, jointly implemented by the African Development Bank through ECMR and, the Korean Development Institute (KDI). This research project focusses on 4 pillars of inclusive growth, one of which if regional integration and inclusive.

II. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE CONSULTANT

For this assignment, the consultant must bring out novel ideas on how participation in regional integration by African countries can stimulate trade and foster inclusive growth. Whilst focus should be the regional dimension, the study can highlight some successful country cases of participation in regional integration initiatives and inclusive growth. The analysis could draw on existing material and literature but must be empirically rigorous with sound arguments and quantifiable policy proposals.

Specific objectives of the study include, inter alia,

i. Assessing the political economy of regional integration initiatives in Africa and how this has shaped trade among the regional economic communities

ii. Assess the degree and volume of intra-regional trade in Africa’s different RECs; highlighting the opportunities and challenges;

iii. Highlight the different channels through which regional integration and trade can stimulate inclusive growth in Africa

iv. In line with (iii), highlight a channel through which fragile states or economies transitioning from fragility can benefit from regional integration, noting that “fragility” is an impediment to inclusive growth

v. Assess the existence of sectoral regional value chains and their potency in stimulating regional trade in African countries, and how this could contribute to employment creation and inclusive growth

vi. Provide empirical evidence on the relationship between regional trade and inclusive growth in African countries

vii. Outline the obstacles to achieving effective regional integration and steps being taken to ameliorate that, with concrete cases in Africa; and

viii. Provide policy recommendations for African governments seeking to strengthen and deepen regional integration as a path towards achievement of inclusive growth.
The above list is not exhaustive. The consultant would therefore be expected to capture other elements and factors not covered above but deemed relevant to the discourse on the interplay between regional integration, trade and inclusive growth in Africa.

III. DELIVERABLES
The paper should not be more than 25 standard A4 pages long (Font size 12 Times New Roman), excluding references, tables, figures and annexes and all data used in the analysis must be submitted together with the paper in editable format (word, excel, etc.).

IV. MANAGEMENT AND DURATION
This is a part-time assignment and the consultant is expected to work from their home base. The consultant will work under the direct supervision of the Division Manager-Macroeconomic Policy, Forecasting and Debt Sustainability of the Macroeconomic Policy, Forecasting and Research Department but is expected to closely liaise with the Task Manager for the assignment to ensure timely reporting of progress and delivery of assigned tasks.

The contract would be awarded for a period of two months from 22nd January-21st March, 2018.

V. QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Education
For this assignment, candidates are expected to possess an advanced university degree (Masters’ Degree or higher) in International Trade, International Economics; Development Economics, Political Economy or other relevant fields.

Experience
In addition, the consultant(s) would be expected to demonstrate:
    - A good understanding of regional integration and trade and economic growth in Africa
    - A thorough knowledge of the role of trade as an engine of inclusive development, preferably with practical experience gained in Africa;
    - Knowledge of different aspects of regional integration (trade, political, institutional, economic, etc.;) and how this stimulate or hamper trade and growth in Africa;
    - Awareness of relevant data sources and their strengths and weaknesses;

This is assignment is of very high priority to the AfDB and its Korean partners. Accordingly, the consultant should demonstrate ability to deliver high quality output under very tight deadline.

Language
English and French are the working languages of the African Development Bank. For this assignment, a good command of English/French is required.

VI. REMUNERATION
For this task and time period, a successful candidate will be paid a lump fee that is commensurate with the qualification and level of experience in line with the Bank’s guidelines on remuneration of individual consultants.
ANNEX: MODEL CURRICULUM VITAE (CV)

Title of the Assignment:
Department:
Surname: First Name:
Birth Date: Nationality:
Address: Country:
Telephone: E-mail:

| Are any of your family members (spouse/partner, father/mother,
| Brother/sister, Son/daughter, etc. employed in the African
| Development Bank? |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Yes | Non |
| If « Yes », the following data must be provided |

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Fair</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
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<td>French</td>
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<td>Good</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (specify)</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
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**Key Qualifications:**
Please provide (i) a summary of your experience and training highlighting the most relevant for the proposed assignment, and (ii) the responsibilities which you exercised. Utilise one half-page maximum.

**Education (University Level and above only):**

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<th>Name of University- City - Country</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Diploma obtained</th>
<th>Major topic/Major</th>
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**Professional Training:**

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<th>Diploma obtained</th>
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**Employment Record:**
Begin with your most recent employment. For each job since your Master Degree achievement, please indicate:
- Name of the Employer
- Type of Activity/Business of the Employer
- Title / Function
- Place of Employment
- Brief Description (three lines maximum) of main accomplishments and responsibilities

**Reference:**