

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Regional Development Mission-Asia (RDM-Asia)
<b>Program Title:</b>	Improved Governance and Economic Reform
<b>Pillar:</b>	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	486-XXX
<b>Status:</b>	New in FY 2005
<b>Planned FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$6,000,000 DA
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$0
<b>Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:</b>	\$6,000,000 DA
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	2005
<b>Estimated Year of Final Obligation:</b>	2008

**Summary:** In FY 2005, USAID is developing a new program to build upon the successful interventions funded under the Accelerated Economic Recovery in Asia (AERA) and South East Asia Competitiveness Initiative (SEACI) programs. Implementation of this new program will begin in late FY 2005. In the interim, USAID and its partners will bring ongoing efforts under the AERA and SEACI programs to completion. The new program will address regional governance and economic reform through trade capacity building, commercial law reform, and more open political processes. It will also complement and support the U.S.-Association for South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Cooperation Plan by building upon ongoing donor and bilateral cooperation efforts in Southeast Asia.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

**FY 2005 Program:** Improve Economic Policy and Governance (\$6,000,000 DA). Following completion of the new program design and the approval of a new RDM/A strategy, expected in mid-FY 2005, USAID plans to competitively award a grant or cooperative agreement to implement this Strategic Objective (SO). Expected results under this program (improved public and private sector governance, greater transparency and accountability, public policy reforms consistent with civil society advocacy, judicial reforms, the advancement of democratic processes and counterterrorism measures such as anti-money laundering practices, progress toward implementation of free trade agreements, and the promotion of open political and economic systems) will be achieved through the provision of technical assistance and training. Funds will also be used to promote further trade and investment reforms needed for the implementation of commitments in the U.S.-Vietnam Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) and the requirements of the World Trade Organization (WTO) accession, and to support the development of the Vietnamese private sector. As a regional program, USAID will work with countries in our portfolio, particularly Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam, to identify common or complimentary trade capacity building or commercial law issues to address. Principal implementers are to be determined.

The AERA Program will close out in late FY 2005. Unfinished activities will be completed under the Business Support Organizations Partnerships program, which develops partnerships between U.S. and Asian organizations and governmental departments. In FY 2004, USAID funding ended for Bank training activities and the Business Advisory Center (Small and Medium Enterprise Development) under the AERA Program. Principal Implementer: Kenan Institute Asia.

The SEACI Program will be closed by FY 2005. Most of the cluster competitiveness projects, particularly in Thailand will continue to develop under Kenan Institute Asia's Thailand Competitiveness Initiative.

**FY 2006 Program:** Improve Economic Policy and Governance (\$6,000,000 DA). Economic policy and governance activities initiated in FY 2005 will continue in FY 2006.

**Performance and Results:** The AERA Program, which was previously funded and managed by the USAID's Asia and Near East Bureau under Encourage Economic Growth SO 498-023, achieved several positive results in FY 2004, continuing to help Thailand put into place systems that would have either helped avert the Asian Financial Crisis of 1987-88 or lessen the effects.

AERA has completed a number of activities to build the capacity for internal auditors to investigate and report on faulty accounting practices that had allowed business to falsely inflate their performance. In addition, based on USAID funded technical assistance from AERA, Thailand has put into place new national standards on land valuation that will mitigate re-emergence of speculative bubbles. Lastly, Thailand has agreed to follow a new roadmap for implementing intellectual property rights protection. AERA had a significant input into this roadmap, particularly in the area of biotechnology.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

### Regional Development Mission-Asia (RDM-Asia)

486-XXX Improved Governance and Economic Reform	DA
<b>Through September 30, 2003</b>	
Obligations	0
Expenditures	0
Unliquidated	0
<b>Fiscal Year 2004</b>	
Obligations	0
Expenditures	0
<b>Through September 30, 2004</b>	
Obligations	0
Expenditures	0
Unliquidated	0
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>	
Obligations	0
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA</b>	
Obligations	6,000
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005</b>	
Obligations	6,000
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA</b>	
Obligations	6,000
Future Obligations	2,000
Est. Total Cost	14,000