

## PROJECT INFORMATION DOCUMENT (PID)

### IDENTIFICATION/CONCEPT STAGE

Report No.: PIDC21891

<b>Project Name</b>	Capacity Building and Supporting Program for Open Data Initiatives in China
<b>Region</b>	EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC
<b>Country</b>	China
<b>Financing Instrument</b>	IPF
<b>Project ID</b>	P154828
<b>Borrower Name</b>	Fudan University
<b>Implementing Agency</b>	Fudan University
<b>Environmental Category</b>	C - Not Required
<b>Date PID Prepared</b>	13-Jul-2015
<b>Estimated Date of Approval</b>	18-May-2015
<b>Initiation Note Review Decision</b>	The review did authorize the preparation to continue

#### I. Introduction and Context

##### Country Context

According to WB's CPS, China's economic and social development over the past three decades has been remarkable, driven by a rapid urbanization and market reform. With a GDP growth averaging about 10 percent per year, the country has managed to lift more than 600 million people out of poverty.

However China is still a developing country, ranking 114th in terms of GNI per capita, and with a large number of people living under the 1,25\$ per day threshold. In addition, the country faces medium and long term challenges such as constraints to sustained economic growth, a large environmental gap, income inequality or access to services, among others.

Some of these challenges were identified in a joint World Bank- China's Development Research Center report, China 2030, a document that builds on extensive search and identifies six strategic directions to pursue in order to achieve the objective of making China a modern high-income society. These strategic directions include recommendations such as speeding up the pace of innovation, universal access to services or a greener environmental path for China.

##### Sectoral and Institutional Context

Recognizing that open data could be a major catalyst for social and economic development, many governments and local authorities worldwide have started to release their data in order to gain these advantages, to add to their global competitiveness and to incubate national data-services companies with the potential and experience to go on to become global players.

China's efforts in open data are relatively recent, but the State Council published an initial Open Government Information policy in 2008. The first open data site was Shanghai's Internal Data Directory in September 2011, and the first book in Chinese on the matter, *The Big Data Revolution*, was published by in the year 2012. These initial steps were followed by some Government Agencies' initiatives, such as the National Bureau of Statistics, which published its site in the year 2013 and by Shanghai and Beijing cities efforts to disseminate some datasets. However, China still has no national policies on open data.

According to the Global Open Data Index, China ranked 57 in the 2014 index, a downgrade from its previous 2013 index score. While efforts are currently ongoing, there are some concerns about some aspects of the country's efforts to embrace open data; such as of the licensing of the data already published or the engagement strategy of Chinese authorities on this matter, to mention a few.

China's relationship with open data is still on its initial stages, and there is a need for capacity-building in this sense. This project aims to contribute to those capacities at the subnational level, with the assessment of the open data program in the pilot city on Nanhai city (pilot city, located in GuangDong Province) and with the setup of some sort of scalability plans to replicate the open data programs in other cities and provinces.

As said earlier, open data is still at its initial stages in China. However, the recipient, Fudan University, has been taking the lead in open data in China by organizing a number of conferences and supporting open data initiatives nationwide. The university organized the first workshop on open data for Chinese cities in October 2014 and will also advise the Shanghai Government in their efforts on opening up some new data sets in the next few years.

The implementing agency has also been funded by the China national science foundation for conducting research on open data in China and has built strong connections with pilot cities in China to sustain the project.

On the other side, Nanhai district was designated by the Chinese government to be the pilot area for e-government initiatives. In 1996 the city was one of the firsts to operate the Internet in China and since then, the central government has promoted initiatives on egovernment in this administrative region, making it a good candidate for pilot area to conduct open data related activities.

This project will help to deepen the understanding and also to expand the influence on the recipient in their efforts to bring open data to the country and understand how open data works in China.

### **Relationship to CAS/CPS/CPF**

The World Bank, through its own Open Data initiative launched in 2010, is at the forefront of international development agencies in providing direct, machine-readable access to quality data on development and Bank operations.

The World Bank has a strong interest in supporting open and evidence-based policy making because this leads to better development outcomes. Data is the raw material for open, evidence-based, policy making. This is also recognized by the International Community, under the new post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals and the Data Revolution Agenda. The developing countries' ability to measure poverty trends is often hindered by the lack of adequate data, therefore there is a demand for more data policies, better tools to measure data and new data sources.

Open Data is an essential element of public administration reform, better public service delivery and

government decision making. Often, Open Data initiatives are inscribed in the larger context of Open Government or e-Government initiatives, which are aligned with improved governance and citizen engagement strategies supported by the World Bank.

In addition to the institution-wide efforts currently ongoing to promote better development data, the World Bank CPS is aligned with the challenges and priorities of the 12th Five Year Economic Plan of the Chinese Government. As mentioned earlier, there are several strategic macro areas of cooperation: a path for greener growth in the country, promotion of inclusive development and enhancing the role of China as a global stakeholder.

This grant builds on both the CPS and the need for better development data. China is in a unique place to benefit from the use of technology and data to improve its development outcomes. On the other hand, as the CPS recognizes, the Bank Group's most valuable contribution in China remains its role in bringing and applying new ideas, innovation and knowledge. Therefore China could benefit from open data route, by applying to the different sectors highlighted in the CPS, ie; measuring carbon emissions, promoting connectivity between regions, better social services delivery, etc. thus contributing to the social and economic development of the country.

## **II. Project Development Objective(s)**

### **Proposed Development Objective(s)**

The ultimate objective of the grant is to expand capacity for open data at the subnational level in China. Nanhai city, GuangDong Province is chosen as a pilot city. The grant will support open data development in Nanhai and produce materials to replicate the experience in other Chinese cities.

### **Key Results**

- ODRA document for Nanhai city
- Evaluation document of the open data program in Nanhai city
- Trainings for government officials on effective skills to manage open data program in Nanhai city.
- Creation of a community of stakeholders in the pilot city to foster the dialogue between supply and demand.
- Knowledge platform or conference for the dissemination of the results
- Toolkit for the replication of the experience in other Chinese cities

## **III. Preliminary Description**

### **Concept Description**

## **IV. Safeguard Policies that Might Apply**

Safeguard Policies Triggered by the Project	Yes	No	TBD
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01		X	
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04		X	
Forests OP/BP 4.36		X	
Pest Management OP 4.09		X	
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11		X	

Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10		X	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12		X	
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37		X	
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50		X	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60		X	

## V. Financing (in USD Million)

Total Project Cost:	0.10	Total Bank Financing:	0.00
Financing Gap:	0.00		
<b>Financing Source</b>			<b>Amount</b>
Borrower			0.00
Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building			0.10
Total			0.10

## VI. Contact point

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