



United States Department of the Treasury - Office of Technical Assistance
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Web Site: www.treasuryota.us/

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Expertise, Resources and Services

The Office of Technical Assistance has a cadre of advisors with specialized expertise in the areas of deposit insurance and failed bank resolutions. OTA technical assistance engagements in the design and establishment or reform of DIS promote internationally accepted best practices and IADI Core Principles in order to ensure sound policy and legislation that contributes to the stability of and credibility in the financial safety net. In addition to theory, OTA has also provided practical assistance to deposit insurance agencies with the resolution of failed financial institutions. OTA's technical assistance engagements are generally not one-off missions, but rather medium-to-long term intermittent engagements. OTA can respond to a request for technical assistance with an initial assessment mission within a matter of months. OTA can conduct working missions in English and Spanish, and has the financial resources to arrange for translation services when needed.

OTA has the capacity to provide both formal workshops and seminars on requested deposit insurance topics, ranging from the management of a deposit insurance fund to the various problem bank resolution methods available to deposit insurance agencies (purchase and assumption transactions, bridge banks... etc) as well as more specific consultations to provide advice/critiques of a particular country's deposit insurance law or its policies and procedures, and /or organizational structure.

Objectives, Priorities and Financing

While there are certainly USG policy and geopolitical priorities that influence the direction of OTA's technical assistance, it is ultimately demand-driven. As a general rule, OTA requires a written letter of request from a government ministry or agency before it will undertake a technical assistance assessment mission and ultimately decide whether to fund a technical assistance engagement. In the area of deposit insurance capacity building, OTA certainly sees the benefits to the international financial system in promoting deposit insurance best practices.

OTA's projects can be funded through all three methods of project financing, but its projects are predominantly funded internally through OTA's congressional appropriation. OTA's appropriation limits the countries eligible for technical assistance to those on the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list of official development assistance (ODA) countries. Countries not on the ODA list requesting technical assistance must be prepared to fund that technical assistance themselves.

Requesting Capacity Building Services

A country requesting OTA technical assistance (capacity building services) would need to submit an official letter of request for technical assistance to OTA. The letter should try to be as specific as possible as to the need for technical assistance and the method of delivery requested. Following receipt of the request, OTA would conduct an assessment mission to meet with potential host country counterparts and determine whether it could provide the requested assistance.

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Alternatives Hosted by the Provider

OTA generally prefers to deliver technical assistance in the host country, but has in the past organized and/or co-hosted regional seminars and workshops. OTA's offices can also accommodate a limited number of foreign visitors for senior-level discussions, especially at the front end of a capacity building project. OTA does not have the capacity to accommodate foreign students or special assignments as OTA's technical advisors do not regularly spend time at the Washington, DC headquarters. OTA can assist in getting host-country officials in touch with the FDIC for more information about training and learning opportunities.