

Three major nations absent as China launches WB rival in Asia

REUTERS, Shanghai

Australia, Indonesia and South Korea skipped the launch of a China-backed Asian infrastructure bank on Friday as the United States said it had concerns about the new rival to Western-dominated multi-lateral lenders.

China's \$50 billion Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is seen as a challenge to the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, both of which count Washington and its allies as their biggest financial backers.

China, which is keen to extend its influence and soft power in the region, has limited voting rights in these existing banks despite being the world's second-largest economy.

The AIIB, launched in Beijing at a ceremony attended by Chinese finance minister Lou Jiwei and delegates from 21 countries including India, Thailand and Malaysia, aims to give project loans to developing nations. China is set to be its largest shareholder with a stake of up to 50 percent.

Indonesia was not present and neither were South Korea and Australia, according to a pool report.

Japan, China's main rival in Asia and which dominates the \$175 billion Asian Development Bank along with the United States, was also not present, but it was not expected to be.

Media reports said US Secretary of State John Kerry put pressure on Australia to stay out of the AIIB.

However, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said: "Secretary Kerry has made clear directly to the Chinese as well as to other partners that we welcome the idea of an infrastructure bank for Asia but we strongly urge that it meet international standards of governance and transparency."

"We have concerns about the ambiguous nature of the AIIB proposal as it currently stands, that we have also expressed publicly."



AFP

Left, Tanzania's President Jakaya Kikwete and Chinese President Xi Jinping shake hands during a signing ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Friday.

In a speech to delegates after the inauguration, Chinese President Xi Jinping said the new bank would use the best practices of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

"For the AIIB, its operation needs to follow multilateral rules and procedures," Xi said. "We have also to learn from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank and other existing multilateral development institutions in their good practices and useful experiences."

The Australian Financial Review said Kerry had personally asked Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott to keep Australia out of the AIIB.

"Australia has been under pressure from the US for some time to not become a founding member of

the bank and it is understood Kerry put the case directly to the prime minister when the pair met in Jakarta on Monday following the inauguration of Indonesian President Joko Widodo," the paper said.

South Korea, one of Washington's strongest diplomatic allies in Asia, has yet to say it will formally participate in the bank. Its finance ministry said last week it has been speaking with China to request more consideration over details such as the AIIB's governance and operational principles.

"We have continued to demand rationality in areas such as governance and safeguard issues, and there's no reason (for Korea) not to join it," South Korean Finance Minister Choi Kyung-hwan said in

Beijing on Thursday after attending a separate regional meeting.

The Seoul-based JoongAng Daily quoted a South Korean diplomatic source as saying: "While Korea has been dropped from the list of founding members of the AIIB this time around, it is still in a deep dilemma on what sort of strategic choices it has to make as China challenges the US-led international order."

The AIIB is expected to begin operations in 2015 with senior Chinese banker Jin Lique, ex-chairman of investment bank China International Capital Corp, expected to take a leading role.

The memorandum of understanding signed on Friday said authorised capital of the bank would be \$100 billion and that the AIIB would be formally established by the end of 2015 with its headquarters in Beijing, state news agency Xinhua said.

Takehiko Nakao, the president of the Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB), said the AIIB should function in line with international governance, labour and environmental standards.

"I hope the new bank will adhere to these standards," Nakao told Reuters in a phone interview.

He acknowledged there was an overlap of the AIIB's role with that of the ADB.

"But again, because of very big financing needs of the region it is understandable to have a new idea of establishing a bank," Nakao said, adding: "We will consider the appropriate collaboration after it is really established."

The ADB, created in 1966, offers grants and below-market interest rates on loans to lower to middle-income countries. At the end of 2013, its lending amounted to \$21.02 billion, including co-financing with other development partners.

China has a 6.5 percent stake in the ADB, while the United States and Japan have about 15.6 percent each.



MTB

Rashed A Chowdhury, chairman of Mutual trust Bank, attends a function to mark the bank's 15th founding anniversary and the opening of the bank's 100th branch at a programme at a hotel in Dhaka on Friday. Syed Manzur Elahi, founding chairman, and Anis A Khan, managing director, were also present.

Google's Pichai to oversee major products and services

REUTERS, San Francisco

Google Inc Chief Executive Officer Larry Page has put Sundar Pichai, one of his key lieutenants, in charge of the Internet company's products.

The India-born executive will have oversight over products such as search, maps, Google+, commerce, advertising and infrastructure, according to a Google spokesman. Six executives who previously reported to Page, including the heads of research, social media and search, will now report to Pichai, according to Re/code, which first reported the change on Friday, citing an internal memo.

The change will free Page from having as many direct reports and product units to oversee so that he can better focus on "the bigger picture," according to the Re/code report, which also cited anonymous sources.

YouTube, Google's popular video website, will be unaffected by the new structure and will continue to report directly to Page.

The move puts Pichai, 42, in charge of many of Google's main services, including its core search and advertising units, which generate the bulk of the company's revenue.

Google, the world's No.1 Internet search engine, has experienced several high-level management changes this year. Chief Business Officer Nikesh Arora departed unexpectedly in July to become Vice Chairman of Japan's SoftBank Corp and was replaced by longtime Google executive Omid Kordestani. Vic Gundotra, the head of Google's social networking services, left in April. Pichai, who has risen rapidly through the ranks since joining Google in 2004, is viewed by many industry insiders as potential CEO material.



PRIME BANK

Azam J Chowdhury, chairman of Prime Bank, attends the bank's managers' conference, at Dhaka Regency Hotel in the capital yesterday. Ahmed Kamal Khan Chowdhury, acting managing director, was also present.

US airline profits lift on cheaper fuel, strong demand

AFP, New York

US airlines Thursday gave a mostly upbeat outlook on industry conditions after posting large profit increases in the third quarter thanks to strong consumer demand and lower fuel prices.

Profits at American Airlines were \$942 million, the highest in the airline's history and 87 percent above the combined year-ago earnings of American and US Airways prior to their merger.

United Continental's profits more than doubled to \$924 million. Southwest Airlines, a big player in domestic flights in the US, saw profits lift 27 percent to \$329 million, while JetBlue's earnings rose 11 percent to \$79 million.

All four of the companies reported impressive gains in passenger revenue per available seat mile (PRASM), a closely watched industry benchmark.

The three-month stretch ending September 30 was "another terrific quarter," said Tammy Romo, chief financial officer at Southwest. "As we move into fourth quarter, the demand environment remains solid and strong revenue trends have continued," she said.

"We have not seen any noticeable negative impact on demand from Ebola or macroeconomic news."

Romo said that Southwest's PRASM in October was currently about two percent higher than last year's level. Bookings in November and December are "also good," she said.

HP seeking buyers for corporate networking business in China

REUTERS

Hewlett-Packard Co has begun sounding out private-equity firms in China to buy its corporate-networking business in the country, the Wall Street Journal reported, citing people familiar with the situation.

HP is expected to sell at least 51 percent of the business, H3C Technologies Co, which could be worth roughly \$5 billion in a full sale, the business daily said.

HP declined to comment on the report.

The buyer likely needs to be based in China if the deal is to win Chinese government approval, the newspaper reported.

Another Chinese technology company could also buy H3C, a major supplier of corporate data-networking gear in the country, although it is more likely to be sold to a private equity group, the Journal said, without naming any of the potential buyers.

US technology companies such as Cisco Systems Inc, IBM Corp and Microsoft Corp are facing challenges in China due to a backlash after revelations about US government surveillance programs.

HP, which wants to continue using H3C's low-cost manufacturing, may retain a sizable minority stake in the business in any deal, the Journal said.

		Request for Expression of Interest		
		Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority BEPZA Complex House-19/D, Road-06, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205		
1	Ministry/Division	Prime Minister's Office (PMO).		
2	Agency	Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA).		
3	Name of procuring entity	BEPZA.		
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.		
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.		
6	Expression of interest for selection of	Consulting Firm.		
7	EOI Ref. No.	03.317.014.00.00.243.2012-896.		
8	Date	23 October, 2014.		
KEY INFORMATION				
9	Procurement sub-method	Quality & Cost Based Selection (QCBS).		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10	Budget and source of fund	GoB (Self finance).		
11	Development partner	Not applicable.		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12	Project/programme code	Not applicable.		
13	Project/programme name	Not applicable.		
14	EOI closing date and time	18 November, 2014 at 12:00 noon.		
15	Name and address of the office(s)	Receiving of EOI Deputy Chief Engineer, BEPZA, BEPZA Complex, House-19/D, Road-06, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205.		
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT				
16	Brief description of assignment	The services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CEPZ centered with a nice modern investor club which presently is insufficient to meet the increasing demand of the zone. The investor's club is enveloping with pound, trees, vacant land. The authority desired to construct another building having modern architectural & aesthetic values accommodating the old one pound, vacant, land and the sight of the Bay of Bengal.• Submission of site layout plan, preliminary architectural conceptual design drawings, land scarping, 3D perspective views, (floor plan, elevations, sections at representative locations) for "Consultancy Services for 6-storied new investors club with a basement at Chittagong EPZ".• After approval of preliminary set of drawings consultant will prepare detail architectural drawings, 3D perspective views, structural drawings with detail calculation sheets along with electrical, mechanical, sanitary & plumbing design drawings, model etc.• Submission of detail working drawings for inbuilt cable, TV system, telephone line, fire fighting system including provision of modern facilities like A/C room, hot & cold water supply system, intercom, calling bell, internet, close circuit camera, furniture lay-out, fire & security alarm system, energy efficient electrical solar panels systems etc.• Submission of all drawings in readable printed form at least 02 sets per building along with soft copy.		
17	Experience, resources & delivery capacity required	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interested consulting firms are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services. The consulting firm should be experienced and reputed in the similar field. Interested firms should submit the following information in sufficient detail including brochures, description of experience in similar assignments, summaries of firm's technical and managerial capabilities, availability of appropriate skills among key staffs with short biographies, availability of resources etc.• The financial capability should be shown as financial turnover supported by a registered Audit Firm for the last three years.• The firm must have successful completion experience on similar assignment/project in a single order amounting not less than Tk 25 lakh within last 05 years in govt./semi-govt./autonomous bodies.• The EOI would be reviewed on the basis of the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➢ Registration of firm➢ Availability of key professionals➢ Availability of resources➢ Turnover of the consulting firm➢ Experience of the firm(s) in similar task➢ Experience of the firm(s) in other works➢ Support services of the firm(s).		
18	Other details	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The firm(s) may form Joint-Venture, Consortium or Association (JVCA) to enhance their qualifications, but should mention whether the association is in the form of a "Joint-Venture" or "Sub-Consultancy". In the case of joint-venture, all firms/entities shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire consultant's obligations under the contract.• But in case of joint-venture/sub-consultancy the lead firm shall sign the contract and shall be liable for the entire consultant's obligations under the contract. It is preferable to limit the total number of firms including their associates to maximum of four.• Special instructions:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➢ Incomplete/partial EOI will be rejected➢ The firm will be selected based on the Quality & Cost Based Selection method in accordance with the Public Procurement Regulation-2008 and Public Procurement Procedures issued by the GoB➢ Interested firm(s) must provide focused information demonstrating that they are qualified to perform the services• Interested consulting firm(s) may obtain additional information from the office mentioned below during office hours on all working days.• The Proposals in 02 (two) sets (1 original+1 duplicate) shall be submitted in sealed envelope & delivered to the address of the undersigned up to 12:00 noon by 16 November, 2014 & clearly marked "Revised-Request for Expression of Interest" for the "Consultancy Services for 7-storied new investors club having foundation of 10-storied building at Chittagong EPZ."		
19	Association with foreign firms	Not applicable.		
Ref. No.	Phasing of services	Location	Indicative start date	Indicative completion date
20	Consultancy services for 6-storied new investors club with a basement at Chittagong EPZ	Chittagong EPZ	December 2014	March 2015 -- Design phase March 2017 -- Supervision phase
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
21	Name of official inviting EOI	Md. Abdul Alim.		
22	Designation of the official inviting EOI	Deputy Chief Engineer.		
23	Address of the official inviting EOI	BEPZA Complex, House-19/D, Road-06, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205.		
24	Contact details of official inviting EOI	Ph: 02-9661370 (Office), E-mail: alimengr@yahoo.com		
25	The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the EOI or annul the EOI process at any stage without assigning any reason(s) whatsoever and without incurring any liability to the affected application(s).			
GD-3976				
Md. Abdul Alim Dy. Chief Engineer Phone: 9661370 E-mail: alimengr@yahoo.com Web: www.epzbangladesh.org.bd				