



ADB's Medium-Term Framework and Action Plan

Background

ADB supports growing international consensus that countries' capacities to manage their own affairs are vital to public sector performance and sustainable development. Achieving inclusive growth requires enhanced developing member country (DMC) capacity to formulate and implement policies, reforms, and investments needed for poverty reduction. ADB identified capacity development (CD) as a key development priority in 2004 and launched its Medium-Term Framework and Action Plan for Capacity Development in 2007.

Objectives and Outcomes

ADB's Capacity Development (CD) Action Plan aims to strengthen ADB's CD assistance in DMCs. To achieve this overarching goal, implementation of the CD Action Plan targets country-level programs and operations, as well as ADB's internal support systems for CD. Expected outcomes in these two areas include:

Country Programs and Operations

- Increased dialogue with DMCs on country-specific CD concepts and principles
- Strengthened results-based management for CD objectives to improve planning, implementation, and monitoring
- Improved CD focus in country partnership strategies (CPSs)
- Increased CD focus in operations targeting governance, education, and infrastructure sectors
- Increased experience with piloting new modalities and processes to support CD

ADB's Internal Support Systems for CD

- Effective ADB leadership to support CD focus and CD Action Plan's approach
- Improved human resource management for CD
- Strengthened CD focus in performance reporting and evaluation of ADB projects
- Improved internal and external knowledge management for CD
- Enhanced CD focus of independent evaluations



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The Action Plan recognizes the need for a flexible approach to integrate CD into ADB operations, with an emphasis on pilot-testing, learning by doing, and progressive organizational and procedural adaptation.

Progress Highlights/Activities Underway

Since launching its CD Action Plan in early 2007, ADB has made significant progress to increase awareness and understanding of key CD concepts, identify CD challenges facing its DMCs, and determine strategies to improve CD interventions. Highlights include:

Learning From the Field

Pacific Region—ADB supported the preparation of 22 case studies on CD in 11 Pacific DMCs to evaluate “what works,” “what doesn’t” and “what must be done” to better integrate CD into Pacific operations. For further information, please visit ADB’s dedicated web page for the Pacific CD Study (<http://adbweb/Documents/Produced-Under-TA/38646/default.asp>).



JOE CANTRELL

South Asia—ADB conducted a study to assess the impact of CD interventions on key executing agencies in the rural infrastructure and power sectors and capital markets and livestock subsectors in Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. For more details, please visit ADB’s website to read the final report (<http://adbweb/Documents/South-Asia/Occasional-Paper/Capacity-Devt-South-Asia/default.asp>).

Pakistan—ADB is working with Pakistan to help map CD interventions for devolved public sector service delivery. Based on an initial mapping, case studies are being prepared. For more information, please visit ADB’s dedicated web page for the Scoping Study on CD for Service Delivery in Pakistan (<http://adbweb/Documents/Produced-Under-TA/40121/default.asp>).

Improving Country Partnership Strategies (CPSs)

Each CPS prepared in 2007 reflects a strengthened CD focus. For example, the Maldives CPS explicitly identifies CD as a major strategic focus, in particular during Phase I of implementation of its CPS.

Engaging in Partnership to Increase Awareness and Knowledge Management

ADB regularly dialogues with other donor agencies and is involved in a number of partnerships to share lessons learned and good CD practices, including the Learning Network on Capacity Development (LenCD) and the JICA-led study on Capacity Development and Effective Technical Cooperation.

Developing ADB Staff Capacity

In 2007, ADB staff participated in a workshop to discuss ADB’s conceptual model for capacity development, as well as tools for Mainstreaming Capacity Development into Sector Operations. Based on workshop discussions, a toolkit is currently under preparation.