

Chair's Summary of Meeting of the Board of Directors

16 September 2009

Solomon Islands: Interim Country Partnership Strategy, 2009–2011

1. Directors endorsed the Solomon Islands Interim Country Partnership Strategy (CPS), 2009-2011. One Director abstained.
2. Most Directors acknowledged the difficulties facing the country, in particular, weak capacity and governance standards in the post conflict environment, structural misalignments, combined with the impact of the global economic crisis, and uncertainties in the context of the 2010 general elections. Under these circumstances, the presentation at this stage of an Interim CPS, and the planned preparation of a full CPS after 2010 was supported.
3. Directors supported the Interim CPS' focus on transport infrastructure and services and private sector development. ADB's role as lead donor in transport was commended. The role of the private sector as a key driver of sustainable economic growth in Solomon Islands was acknowledged, and ADB's approach toward enhancing the business environment by simplifying laws and regulations and improving access to finance was supported. The promotion of opportunities for private sector operations in Solomon Islands was encouraged.
4. Many Directors felt that the presentation and mainstreaming of gender issues into ADB operations in Solomon Islands could be strengthened. The importance of consultations with the Government on gender issues was stressed. One Director felt that in light of climate change challenges in the Pacific Island region in general, and Solomon Islands in particular, opportunities for renewable energy should be promoted, perhaps as part of a regional approach.
5. In consideration of the considerable aid inflows, many Directors stressed the importance of effective donor coordination, and acknowledged the vital role of ADB's new country presence in Solomon Islands. One Director requested ADB to continue to ensure the safety of staff and consultants traveling to, and working in, Solomon Islands.