

Conclusion

To avoid the worst predicted impacts of climate change, institutions and individuals must act now. In terms of planning both adaptation measures to respond to the predicted impacts of climate change and mitigation measures to avoid rapid increases in global emissions, nowhere in the world are coordinated responses as critical as in Asia and the Pacific. Actions must be decisive and informed to transform greenhouse gas intensive business-as-usual practices. ADB's Strategy 2020 (ADB 2008) recognizes the urgent need for significant progress on energy efficiency and other measures to address climate change across developing Asia and the Pacific in order to produce positive results reaching far beyond regional borders and the present generation. As such, ADB will work more aggressively than ever with governments, the private sector, and civil society to move towards low-carbon, climate-resilient economies.

Existing scientific, technical, and economic analysis inform areas for priority investment, and ADB will respond by concentrating support to DMCs to increase energy efficiency, develop sustainable transport systems, and improve land use management to reduce emissions. ADB will continue to provide significant support to DMCs to leverage carbon finance and develop CDM projects that reduce emissions, help transfer technology, and increase energy security.

Funding and cooperation to support adaptation and risk management efforts in Asia and the Pacific will need to dramatically increase to meet the needs of DMCs. ADB will expand both technical and financial resources to address adaptation, focusing on climate-proofing existing and planned investments, and sectorwide support to water and agriculture. ADB will partner with leading organizations to ensure that the social dimensions of climate change—including health, gender, and migration—are adequately addressed as part of our DMCs' responses.

Within the next decade, climate change considerations will be incorporated into all development planning. Investment in low-carbon growth strategies may be given strong signals by the agreements reached at the 15th United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009, or at subsequent conferences. Resilience measures will soon be build into national development plans using sophisticated tools under development to estimate the risks and corresponding incremental costs that must be

considered as a result of climate change. However, there is no time to wait: climate change is real and is affecting ADB DMCs, threatening to undo hard-won development gains. In the short term, ADB will continue to actively engage with partners and rapidly increase its support for core sustainable infrastructure and climate change adaptation activities, using its technical and financial resources to transform and protect economies in Asia and the Pacific.