

Much of the Asia and Pacific region is in a climate change quandary. As Asian countries register some of the most rapid economic growth rates in the world, this expansion is also fueling unprecedented demand for more energy and natural resources.

Major shifts in social, environmental, and economic patterns as a result of growth in these countries are putting upward pressure on greenhouse gas emissions that are causing climate change. In turn, the immediate and long-term impacts of climate change are threatening social and economic progress.

Such impacts are already being felt in a number of real and recognizable ways in the region. Small island nations of the Pacific are witnessing measurable encroachment of the sea, forcing them to think in terms of adaptation measures and ultimately migration. Typhoons, floods, and droughts, are happening more frequently and are more destructive than ever before.

Governments and communities in the region are now coming to recognize the negative consequences of decades of a "grow now, clean up later" approach, and they are beginning to take steps to address air, water, and land pollution and to manage their natural resources more sustainably. Public demand for cleaner air and water is also intensifying.

Many governments now want to ensure that economic growth, resource management, and climate change mitigation and adaptation can all happen at the same time. Regulations and price incentives are emerging as mechanisms for attracting the

capital and influencing the behaviors needed for a transition to a sustainable development pathway.

With this transition come challenges and opportunities. ADB is seeking to assist its DMCs in meeting those challenges—that can exacerbate poverty and jeopardize long-term growth prospects. ADB's approach to helping DMCs address climate change is anchored in poverty reduction and pro-growth strategies.

ADB is helping DMCs build low-carbon economies through a number of ongoing initiatives in energy efficiency, carbon markets, sustainable transport, rural resources management, urban services, and climate change adaptation. We are also playing a role in managing risk and attracting the capital needed for adaptation and mitigation actions—even beyond the current global frameworks which extend to 2012.

Strong environmental, social, and security imperatives exist for taking early and decisive action to adopt a sustainable development pathway. This transition requires all stakeholders to work together for creative solutions, and ADB stands fully committed to help DMCs meet the extraordinary challenges of climate change. We welcome partnerships with both developed and developing nations, as well as with leading institutions around the world.

ADB Climate Change Team
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