

**RELEVANCE OF COUNTRY STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMS IN RELATION TO ADB'S
LONG-TERM STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK – EVIDENCE FROM COUNTRY ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM EVALUATION REPORTS**

CAPE	Assessment
Lao PDR (Apr 2006) ^a	Relevant/responsive. Two priority areas of the 1991 CSP reflected ADB's corporate objectives, while the 1996 country strategy's four priority areas (economic growth; policy reforms to promote PSD, HRD, and capacity development; and regional integration) were largely consistent with the 1995–1998 MTSF. The 2001 CSP focused on poverty reduction through the three pillars identified in the 1999 Poverty Reduction Strategy and ADB's LTSF 2001–2015.
Uzbekistan (Jan 2006) ^b	Uzbekistan's country strategy is not focused on ADB's corporate objectives. ADB has been no more or no less successful as other aid agencies in getting the Government to embrace a serious program of economic reform, but it did play a role on getting the issue of poverty on the table with the Government. Social development is high on the Government's priority and is being reinforced by ADB. However, there has been little activity on improving governance and addressing gender issues. The concentration of ADB agriculture projects on irrigation was not balanced by a coherent program to improve farm management practices to arrest environmental degradation.
Indonesia (Dec 2005) ^c	Highly relevant. The country strategies were consistent with ADB's overall strategy. Additional strategy objectives reflecting ADB's priorities, e.g., sustainable growth and environment protection were included in the country strategies. However, from the Indonesian point of view, these did not represent the country's development priorities.
Bhutan (May 2005) ^d	Responsive. The 1991 COS preceded ADB's first MTSF (1991–1995) but incorporated some of its and the succeeding MTSF's (1995–1998) thematic priorities to guide operations in the medium term such as private sector development, strengthening public sector management capacity, human resource development, and natural resources management. The 2000 COS is consistent with the PRS and the PSDS and is responsive to ADB's thematic and strategic thrusts for the period.
Nepal (Sep 2004) ^e	Responsive. The COSs incorporated, for the most part, ADB's evolving strategic priorities during the period. The lending program included a distribution of projects in conformity with the COSs and TA allocations appeared to reasonably reflect ADB strategic priorities.
Cambodia (Jan 2004) ^f	Highly responsive/relevant. The 1992 IS made no reference to MTSF 1992–1995 but is generally consistent with the priorities espoused by the MTSF. The 1995 COS was formulated in the context of the 1995–1998 MTSF but made poverty reduction its overarching objective for Cambodia instead of just one of its strategic thrusts as in the MTSF. Poverty reduction continued to be the overriding objective of the 2000 COS and its priority areas were consistent with ADB's PRS.
PNG (Sep 2003) ^g	Responsive. Poverty reduction was only second to economic growth in ADB's country strategies or programs in the PNG prior to the adoption of the PRS. This is partly due to the situation in most PDMCs where poverty is not viewed as a significant problem. In addition to economic growth, the country program supported social development. Gender issues was not addressed though direct assistance. Governance was only prioritized in later years when the 1998 COS made it the central theme of assistance to PNG. The country strategies have recognized the importance of private sector development and much of the program in agriculture aimed to assist private farmers or set conditions for private SMEs. Regional cooperation was reflected in the 1996 Strategy for the Pacific but it did not figure prominently in the country strategies. Environmental concerns were mentioned in country strategies and programs but support was limited.

CAPE	Assessment
Bangladesh (Jan 2003) ^h	Responsive. The 1989 COS was the first strategy document for Bangladesh to specify broad development objectives (economic growth, policy and institutional reform, and poverty reduction), but it did not indicate any sectoral priorities. Subsequent COSs were prepared in the context of emerging definition of ADB's strategic objectives in relation to all DMCs. The 1993 COS identified poverty reduction as its overriding objective through efficient economic growth; enhanced access by the poor to improved social services and credit, and environmental protection. The 1999 COS reemphasized the primacy of poverty reduction and renewed ADB's commitment to the three priority areas of the 1993 COS. An important feature of the 1999 COS was its attention to cross-cutting development issues such as governance and gender.
Philippines (Jan 2003) ⁱ	Relevant. The strategy provided a flexible framework on which to anchor development assistance, which allowed ADB to support the country with quick disbursing loans during periods of crises. In normal circumstances, ADB continued to support poverty reduction and fostered social development although ADB undertook widely-diverging activities.
Mongolia (Oct 2002) ^j	Responsive. Poverty reduction was discussed in all the country strategies during the CAPE review period. All of them advocated economic growth through private sector development. The 1991 and 1994 COSs considered infrastructure development as an essential input to private sector development, while the 2000 COS focused on governance and emphasized poverty reduction by supporting improvements in the delivery of social services.

ADB = Asian Development Bank, CAPE = country assistance program evaluation, COS = country operational strategy, CSP = country strategy and program, DMC = developing member country, HRD = human resource development, Lao PDR = Lao People's Democratic Republic, LTSF = long-term strategy framework, MTSF = medium-term strategy framework, PDMC = Pacific developing member country, PNG = Papua New Guinea, PRS = poverty reduction strategy, PSD = private sector development, SME = small- and medium-sized enterprise, TA = technical assistance.

^a Covers the 1991, 1996, and 2001 country strategies.

^b The CAPE focused on ADB's operations from 1996 to 2004. The assessment covers ADB's country program's contribution to ADB objectives.

^c The CAPE covered the period 1990–2004 and assessed the 1989 Bank Operational Strategy, 1994 COS, 2000 COS, and 2002 CSP.

^d The CAPE evaluated the 1991 and 2000 COSs.

^e The CAPE evaluated ADB's program in Nepal for the period 1988–2003 and assessed three COSs: 1988, 1993, and 1999.

^f Covers the period 1992–2002 and assessed the 1992 Interim Strategy, 1995 COS, and 2000 COS.

^g Covers the period 1986–2002 and assessed three COSs: 1989, 1994, and 1998.

^h The CAPE evaluated ADB's operations in Bangladesh from 1986 to 2001 and assessed the 1989, 1993, and 1999 COSs.

ⁱ Covers the period 1986–2001.

^j Evaluated ADB operations in Mongolia from 1991 to 2001 and three COSs: 1991, 1994, and 2000.