

THE POVERTY NETWORK MEETING WITH ADB

The Asia and Pacific region has made remarkable strides over the past decade in sharply reducing levels of extreme poverty. But [recent studies](#) suggest that the scale of poverty is larger than previously estimated, while new threats loom in the form of climate change and global surges in the price of food and other commodities. Swapping information on poverty has been hampered by a lack of available material in readily shareable form, as well as limited, or inadequate, channels for exchanging it. The poverty network will enhance regional knowledge sharing on poverty reduction and inclusive growth in Asia and Pacific.

In 2008, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a regional technical assistance project to support a regional network of research institutions and policy makers in Asia and the Pacific to share knowledge on poverty reduction and inclusive growth.

Eminent think tank institutions in Asia working on poverty reduction and inclusive growth will have a quick and cost-effective way of disseminating policy briefs, working papers, and research studies through a regional poverty website, e-newsletters, and seminars. The project will also finance studies and conferences on the impact of the global economic slowdown on poverty and on the environments of the poor.

The [Poverty Network project](#) links with about 70 think-tank institutions in the region. They are coordinated

- For South Asia – through the National Council of Applied Economic Research ([NCAER](#)) in New Delhi
- For East and Central Asia – through the International Poverty reduction Center in China ([IPRCC](#)), and
- For Southeast Asia and the Pacific – through a regional think tank institution in either Malaysia or Thailand.
- In addition, the Korea Development Institute ([KDI](#)) will coordinate work on the inclusive growth agenda of emerging middle income countries.

Three major topics form the core area of the three-year work are (1) the social impact of the global economic slowdown on the poor and vulnerable in Asia; (2) the environments of the poor; and (3) the inclusive growth agenda for emerging middle income countries in Asia.

The project links with other regional knowledge networks on poverty such as the [Poverty Analysis and Development Initiative \(PADI\)](#). It is also financing the 2009 regional conference on the social impact of the global economic slowdown in Hanoi. The Hanoi meeting will also be the first annual meeting of the regional hub institutions for the poverty network project.

The costs of the \$1 million regional technical assistance project are equally financed on a grant basis by the Republic of Korea e-Asia and Knowledge Partnership Fund, and the People's Republic of [China Regional Cooperation and Poverty Reduction Fund](#). The project is also parallel financed through an additional grant of the ASEAN Foundation for poverty discussion in the ASEAN region.

For more information on the Poverty Network project, see:

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/TARs/REG/41061-REG-TAR.pdf>

To learn more about ADB's poverty work, please visit the poverty website:

<http://www.adb.org/poverty/default.asp>.