Strategy 2020 sets the vision of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as an Asia and Pacific region free of poverty. ADB’s mission is to help its developing member countries (DMCs) reduce poverty and improve living conditions and quality of life.

**ADB’s Strategic Agendas**

ADB focuses on three complementary strategic agendas to pursue its vision and mission.

**Foster inclusive growth**
A development strategy anchored in the promotion of inclusive growth focuses on two mutually reinforcing concepts: that high and sustainable growth creates and expands economic opportunities; and that broad access to these opportunities ensures that all people, in particular the disadvantaged, can participate in and benefit from growth.

**Promote environmentally sustainable growth**
Asia’s economic growth has unintended consequences, and may result in the depletion of natural resources, environmental degradation, and climate change. To encourage environmentally sustainable growth, ADB supports the use of environmentally friendly technologies, adoption of environmental safeguards, and establishment of institutional capacities to strengthen their enforcement.

**Encourage regional cooperation and integration**
ADB promotes regional cooperation and integration as an important platform to complement efforts at the country level. The region has a vast potential to further accelerate economic growth, increase productivity and employment, and reduce economic disparities through regional cooperation and integration. To unlock this potential, ADB supports closer policy coordination and collaborates to promote regional and global public goods.
ADB’s Drivers of Change

To better mobilize resources and to maximize returns on its unique regional experience and comparative strengths, ADB focuses on five drivers of change. Each driver is critical for ADB to achieve its three strategic agendas effectively and efficiently, and to position itself as an effective development partner.

Private sector development and operations
ADB leverages the vast international pool of private resources and promotes private–public partnerships. Through its participation in private sector projects, ADB helps lower investment risks and costs. This also speeds infrastructure development that creates jobs and sustains economic growth. ADB also supports reforms for better policy and regulatory frameworks for the private sector.

Good governance and capacity development
ADB ensures that governance and anticorruption are an integral part of all ADB operations. ADB also encourages DMCs to incorporate the four elements of
good governance into its activities: accountability, participation, predictability, and transparency. ADB also invests on developing country capacities so that DMCs can better formulate and implement policies, reforms, and investments needed for poverty reduction.

**Gender equity**
ADB pays careful attention to gender issues across all its operations. ADB promotes gender equity, particularly through projects that improve access for girls and women to education and health services, clean water, better sanitation, and basic infrastructure.

**Knowledge solutions**
ADB transfers innovative solutions and good practices to better support development in Asia and the Pacific. It identifies development trends in the region, collects and shares best practices in development fields, and strategically uses the knowledge base provided by its multidisciplinary staff. It also catalyzes knowledge exchange among DMCs.

**Partnerships**
Effective partnership is integral to planning, financing, and implementing all ADB operations. ADB maintains many productive relationships with its member governments, and other multilateral and bilateral agencies. ADB’s partnerships include the private sector and civil society organizations.
ADB’s Core Areas of Operations

To maximize efficiency and impact, ADB concentrates its operations in five core specializations that best support its agenda, reflect needs of DMCs and ADB’s comparative strengths, and complement efforts of other development partners.

**Infrastructure development**
ADB supports investments in infrastructure to ensure sustainable economic progress, connect the poor to markets, and increase access of the poor to basic productive assets. Focus areas include expanding transport and communication connectivity in the region, promoting sustainable energy supply, and investing in both rural and urban infrastructure.

**Environment, including climate change**
ADB helps DMCs move their economies onto low-carbon growth paths by improving energy efficiency, expanding the use of clean energy sources, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, modernizing public transport systems, and arresting deforestation.

**Regional cooperation and integration**
ADB fosters regional cooperation and integration initiatives in the region with investments in cross-border projects to accelerate growth and economic partnerships, as well as to address shared risks and challenges.

**Financing sector development**
ADB supports the finance sector at the regional and national levels by helping to develop financial infrastructure, institutions, and products and services.

**Education**
ADB supports expanded, higher-quality, more accessible basic and secondary education, particularly in smaller and poorer DMCs. It will increasingly direct its attention to raising quality of technical and vocational education and training, and of selected fields in tertiary education.

ADB will continue to operate selectively in three other areas of health, agriculture, and disaster and emergency assistance in close partnership with other agencies.
ADB Goals and Targets

Operational goals
Under Strategy 2020, ADB has set targets to (i) have 80% of its operations in its core operational areas by 2012; (ii) scale up private sector development and private sector operations in all operational areas, reaching 50% of annual operations by 2020; (iii) significantly increase support for environmentally sustainable development, including projects to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and to address climate change; and (iv) increase assistance for regional cooperation and integration to at least 30% of total activities by 2020.

Institutional goals
Strategy 2020 requires institutional change. Implementation of Strategy 2020 necessitates changes in the mix of skills among ADB’s human resources. ADB also needs to adapt its organizational structure to new and expanded products and services, particularly in private sector operations, financial services, knowledge management, and environmental operations.

Monitoring progress
Following commitments under Strategy 2020, ADB became the first multilateral development bank to adopt a corporate-wide results framework. ADB’s Management uses this results framework to examine specific indicators and targets in line with Strategy 2020’s vision and strategic directions. The framework helps ADB to measure results and monitor progress in implementing Strategy 2020, as well as take corrective actions where required. ADB’s progress in achieving the desired targets is assessed annually through the development effectiveness review (DEfR). The report is discussed by ADB’s Board of Directors, and is also made available to the public through the ADB website.

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