



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
AND
THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
AND
THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND
THE PACIFIC**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) reaffirm their desire to work together in areas of mutual interest in the service of developing countries of common membership in the Asian and Pacific region through the present Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which supersedes the memorandum of understanding signed between ADB and ESCAP on 16 May 2004.

II. PURPOSE OF ADB-ESCAP COOPERATION

2. As both ADB and ESCAP have been established with mandates to promote the economic growth and regional cooperation and both give a priority to poverty reduction and inclusive and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region, ADB and ESCAP plan to work together:

- (a) towards achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the outcomes of the post-2015 development process; and
- (b) to support poverty reduction and sustainable development through improved cooperation and connectivity at the regional and sub-regional levels.

3. Any activities conducted under this MoU are subject to (a) their inclusion in the organisations' respective programmes of work and budgets and to the availability of funds, and (b) an administrative arrangement in relation to principles of implementation that may be agreed between ADB and ESCAP.

III. GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR ADB-ESCAP COOPERATION

4. ADB and ESCAP will be guided by the following general principles:

- (a) country and, where relevant, regional/subregional ownership of sound development policies and programmes are necessary to ensure inclusive, sustainable development;
- (b) evidence-based development policies for inclusive and sustainable development, supported by innovative research and analysis, are needed;

- (c) full stakeholder participation in consultative processes should be encouraged, consistent with available resources; and
 - (d) results-oriented programmes that are built on transparent relationships between development assistance providers and beneficiary countries are needed.
5. ADB and ESCAP plan to jointly:
- (a) focus on the shared strategic and operational priorities of the two organizations;
 - (b) use the comparative strengths and advantages of each organization;
 - (c) produce analytical work, implement capacity building initiatives, and organize conferences/policy dialogues at the regional and sub-regional levels;
 - (d) share knowledge, lessons learned and evaluations of developments in Asia and the Pacific;
 - (e) consult each other in policy dialogue at the regional and sub-regional levels and programming for regional and sub-regional activities, where feasible and appropriate;
 - (f) explore the potential of co-financing of regional and sub-regional programs and projects; and
 - (g) exchange or second staff, where appropriate.

IV. FOCUS OF ADB-ESCAP JOINT ACTIVITIES

6. The priority areas for joint activities will be confirmed in mutual consultation between ADB and ESCAP following the results of the post-2015 development process in the third quarter of 2015, and will be included as an appendix to this MOU through an amendment to this MOU.

V. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

7. ADB and ESCAP recognize that effective cooperation depends on open, comprehensive and regular exchange of information at the institutional level. They agree to make appropriate arrangements to:

- (a) provide copies of every publication and all public documents of each organization to the main library of the other organization to be maintained as reference documents; and

- (b) give notice, through information posted on the websites of each organization, of:
- conferences, seminars and workshops being organized or sponsored;
 - regional, country, sector and thematic policy/strategy documents;
 - programme and project approval documents; and
 - regional programme, country programme, sectoral, project and other evaluations.

VI. RECIPROCAL INVITATIONS

8. ADB and ESCAP recognize that appropriate representation is important for the purpose of joint positioning and advocacy. They agree that:

- (a) reciprocal invitations will be extended to the other organization to attend the annual meetings of ADB and the annual sessions of ESCAP; and
- (b) invitations to other meetings, conferences, seminars and workshops relevant to cooperation in the priority areas set out in the Appendix to this MoU will be sent, where appropriate.

VII. PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS

9. ADB and ESCAP recognize that it is important to convene periodic consultations to review what is being planned, what is being implemented, and what is being achieved in terms of results as well as to discuss new challenges, opportunities and problems. They agree to hold such consultations periodically as required and not less than once every two years.

VIII. FOCAL POINTS FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE MOU

10. ADB and ESCAP agree to designate as focal points for the activities under this MoU:

- | | | |
|-----|------------|--|
| (a) | for ADB | Director General, Strategy and Policy
Department (SPD) |
| (b) | for ESCAP: | Director, Strategy and Programme
Management Division (SPMD) |

IX. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE MOU AND JOINT ACTIVITIES

11. ADB and ESCAP will prepare annually:

- (a) a list of all current operational cooperation activities and status of implementation;
- (b) a list with a brief description of all planned cooperation activities for the next year; and
- (c) an indicative list of planned cooperation activities for the two subsequent years.

12. ADB and ESCAP agree that:

- (a) ADB and ESCAP will prepare a joint report annually on the status of implementation of the cooperation activities, including an assessment of results achieved;
- (b) ADB and ESCAP will conduct a joint midterm review or evaluation of the ADB-ESCAP cooperation 30 months after signature of this MoU and
- (c) these assessments will be taken into account by ADB and ESCAP in considering further cooperation activities, including any necessary amendments to this MoU.

X. JOINT COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

13. ADB and ESCAP recognize that the involvement of both organizations in joint cooperation activities needs to be publicized. They agree that:

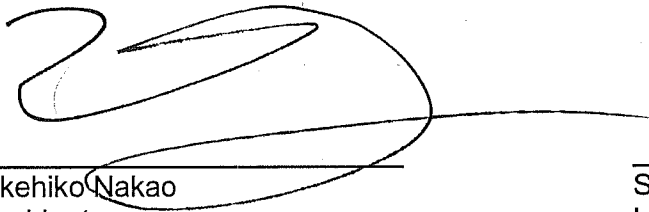
- (a) there will be public acknowledgment of the role and contribution of each organization to cooperation projects in all public information documentation related to such cooperation; and
- (b) the use of emblems of each organization in documentation related to cooperation will be in accordance with the current policies of each organization concerning such usage.
- (c) Memorandum of Understanding between the Asian Development Bank and the United Nations, represented by ESCAP, on Joint Publications signed on 13 April 2013, remains in effect in the context of this MoU.

XI. MISCELLANEOUS

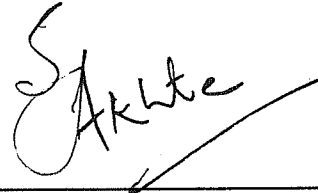
- 14. The term of this MoU will be from the date of signature by both Parties until 31 December 2020 unless otherwise terminated pursuant to paragraph 17 below.
- 15. Any specific activities under this MoU shall be covered by a written agreement.
- 16. This MoU may be amended or extended by mutual written consent of the Parties.
- 17. This MoU may be terminated by either Party on six months' notice in writing.

For the Asian Development Bank

For the United Nations Economic
and Social Commission for Asia and
the Pacific



Takehiko Nakao
President



Shamshad Akhtar
Under-Secretary-General
and Executive Secretary

Signed on 24 April 2015 at ADB Headquarters, Manila, Philippines