In 2019, the Office of Anticorruption and Integrity (OAI) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) played a key role in supporting the implementation of Strategy 2030 and its Operational Plan for Priority 6: Strengthening Governance and Institutional Capacity, 2019–2024.

OAI focused on promoting the corruption-free delivery of public services, the implementation of anticorruption measures, and strengthening anti-money laundering and tax integrity standards in ADB’s developing member countries.
Complaints and Investigations

OAI serves as the initial point of contact for all allegations of integrity violations and conducts independent and objective investigations based on ADB’s *Anticorruption Policy* (1998, as amended since). In 2019, OAI improved its efficiency in complaints assessment and investigative processes, and adopted a new case management system.

**Sources of Complaints**

- **External parties**: 191
- **ADB staff**: 82
- **Others**: 17

OAI received 290 new complaints and assessed a total of 299 complaints, including those received prior to 2019. Of these, 185 did not meet the assessment criteria and were closed.

**Complaints Closed**

- Did not meet assessment criteria: 185
- With remedial action: 17
- Other actions taken: 17

**Complaints Opened**

- Involving ADB projects: 206
- About ADB staff: 44
- Others: 40

*Includes complaints received in 2018.*
OAI opened 80 new investigations and completed 110 investigations, of which 74% resulted in remedial actions.

**Remedial Actions Against External Parties**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Taken</th>
<th>Firms</th>
<th>Individuals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Debarred</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reprimanded</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cautioned</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross debarred</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Investigations Opened**

- Involving ADB projects: 61
- About ADB staff: 9
- Others: 10

*Includes complaints received prior to 2019.

**Investigations Closed**

- With remedial action: 81
- Unsubstantiated: 20
- Disproven: 5
- Other actions taken: 4

*Includes investigations opened prior to 2019.

93% increase in investigations closed
Respectful Workplace

The Respectful Workplace Unit (RWU) addresses concerns of alleged workplace misconduct, including bullying, harassment, sexual harassment, and retaliation. In 2019, RWU received 107 visitors and opened 101 matters involving 128 subjects of interest (against whom concerns were raised).

RWU resolved 135 matters, including matters opened in 2018, comprising 99 advisories and 36 investigations, 3 of which resulted in disciplinary measures against ADB staff.

Workplace Matters Reviewed

- **Investigations**: 45
  - 36 closed
  - 9 remained open
  - 3 reports issued to BPMSD

- **Advisories**: 110
  - 99 closed
  - 11 remained open

*Includes 54 matters from 2018.

BPMSD = Budget, Personnel, and Management Systems Department.

Types of Matters

- **Bullying and harassment**: 68
  - 17 advisories
  - 4 investigations

- **Sexual harassment**: 4
  - 4 advisories
  - 0 investigations

- **Other misconduct**: 38
  - 24 advisories
  - 3 investigations
Integrity Risk Management

ADB conducts proactive integrity reviews (PIRs) of ongoing sovereign operations to assess whether the bank’s resources are used for intended purposes and remedy integrity risks identified in the review. The eight PIRs conducted in 2019 include the following findings:

- inadequate evaluation of bids and proposals;
- weak project financial management and contract oversight; and
- poor capacity of the project implementing agencies in procurement, contract supervision, and inspection of project assets.

OAI reviewed 90 project preapproval documents for 75 ADB-related projects—to identify integrity risks and advise on mitigation measures to ensure that proceeds from ADB-financed projects will be used for intended purposes.

- **8 Proactive integrity reviews conducted**
- **Afghanistan**
- **Bhutan**
- **Georgia**
- **Indonesia**
- **Kazakhstan**
- **Myanmar**
- **Nepal**
- **Palau**

- **$1.8 BILLION** Value of projects covered
- **$422 MILLION** Value of contracts reviewed
Preemployment screenings completed

573

Knowledge Sharing and Collaboration

To promote ADB’s role as a knowledge bank and thought leader, OAI continued providing anticorruption training. It also developed innovative knowledge products and services on fraud and corruption prevention and detection, IDD, professional conduct, anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism, and tax integrity.

OAI also issues policy advisories to ADB departments and offices for matters involving cofinancing, conflict of interest, contract variations for sanctioned entities, cross debarment, and anticorruption clauses in project documents.

Entities reviewed for integrity due diligence

954

Integrity policy advisories issued

869

Capacity building for integrity. In May 2019, students of Ateneo de Manila University School of Government learned about ADB’s Anticorruption Policy, due diligence, and overall processes to help ensure public funds are used for their intended purposes. (photo by Alaysa Escandor).
### Learning Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sessions for DMC partners and stakeholders</th>
<th>58</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sessions for ADB staff and consultants</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sessions for both ADB and DMC</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Participants of Learning Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DMC partners and stakeholders</th>
<th>4,995</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADB staff and consultants</td>
<td>2,796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both ADB and DMC</td>
<td>915</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OAD = Asian Development Bank, DMC = developing member country.

OAI focused on communications through digital technology, social media, and other online channels to reach a wider, more mobile audience. To further raise staff awareness, OAI designed a gamified e-learning course, which was a first for ADB. OAI launched three new webpages on ADB Knowledge Events that compile learning resources from its programs: the Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia-Pacific, Enhancing Tax Transparency of ADB Developing Member Countries, and Capacity Building for Integrity.

ADB’s first gamified e-learning course. Sustainable Development and Climate Change Director General Woochong Um tries his hand at “Are You an Integrity Champion?”. In its first 6 weeks, the course was played 4,600 times by 759 ADB players (photo by Edzelle Peña).
OAI led the International Anticorruption Day celebration in 2019, with ADB President Takehiko Nakao* and integrity champions from Southeast Asia’s business community in attendance. The panel discussion highlighted the importance of engagement with the private sector in the fight against corruption.

*President Nakao stepped down as President on 16 January 2020.
Under the Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia-Pacific, OAI co-organized the 10th Regional Conference on Preventing and Combating Corruption in Viet Nam, attended by over 140 representatives from government institutions, the business sector, and civil society.

In 2019, OAI provided technical assistance to assist Mongolia, the Philippines, and Viet Nam with international anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism standards.

OAI expanded its technical assistance to Armenia, Cambodia, Maldives, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, and Thailand to support tax policy and law reforms, process improvements, and to implement tax integrity standards.
About the Office of Anticorruption and Integrity

Established in 1998, OAI leads ADB’s integrity initiatives. OAI comprises the Office of the Head, the Investigations Division, and the Prevention and Compliance Division.

At year-end, OAI comprised 36 staff, including 1 head, 1 advisor, 1 director, 10 international staff, 16 national staff, and 7 administrative staff. OAI engages expert consultants, contractors, and external investigation and audit firms to support its operations.

In 2019, OAI successfully rolled out a new customized case management system that connects OAI’s core business processes to a central database and will provide real-time business intelligence to management and key stakeholders.