

**OFFICE OF
ANTICORRUPTION
AND INTEGRITY**

2020 Annual Report Highlights

ADB

Safeguarding Integrity Amidst COVID-19

In 2020, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic significantly impacted how the Office of Anticorruption and Integrity (OAI) worked and what it was working on.

OAI successfully pivoted to a fully remote working environment and adapted to the stringent mobility restrictions announced in the wake of the pandemic. OAI managed to continue investigations, proactive integrity reviews, and capacity building efforts successfully by deploying and expanding its reliance on technology, and engaging resident mission colleagues and external experts in the countries concerned.

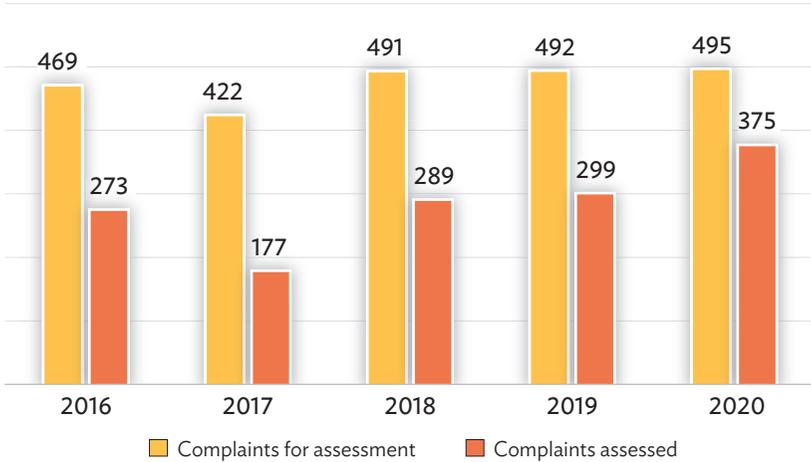
Complaints and Investigations Closed, 2016–2020



Source: ADB (OAI).

OAI continued its focus on improving efficiencies in complaints assessment and investigation processes. In a year that it received more complaints (302) than in any other year to date, OAI assessed a record 375 complaints. Further investigations were required on 112 complaints, while 263 complaints were closed.

Complaints for Assessment vs. Complaints Assessed, 2016–2020



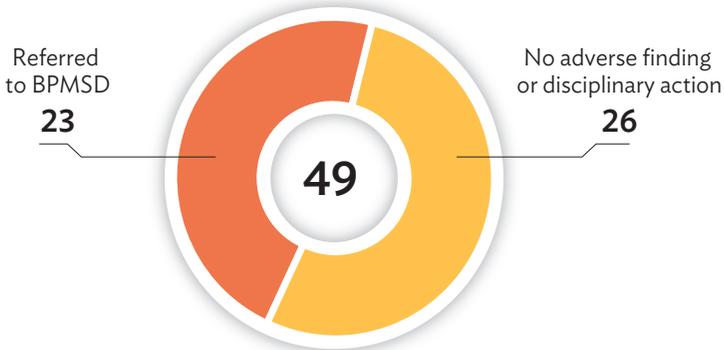
Source: ADB (OAI).

In 2020, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) concluded 76 external investigations, resulting in the debarment of 89 firms and 31 individuals for violating ADB’s Anticorruption Policy (1998, as amended to date), and the issuance of reprimands (20 cases) and cautions (9 cases).

On 13 May 2020, the Office of Professional Conduct (OPC) commenced its operations and the pilot period of its predecessor, the Respectful Workplace Unit, ended. OAI continues to investigate allegations of staff misconduct, including cases referred by OPC.

OAI recorded vast improvements in concluding staff investigations, with 93% of the cases completed within 1 year from complaint registration. OAI completed 49 investigations related to alleged misconduct by ADB staff, which resulted in 23 cases being referred to the Budget, People, and Management Systems Department (BPMSD) for appropriate disciplinary action. The remaining 26 staff investigations were concluded with no adverse findings or disciplinary action.

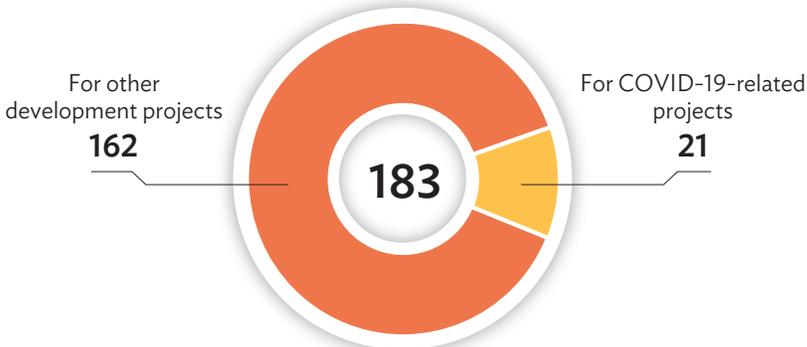
Internal Investigations Completed, 2020



BPMSD = Budget, People, and Management Systems Department.
Source: ADB (OAI).

To ensure the fast-tracking of critical pandemic-related projects, OAI integrity specialists that normally exercise an oversight and advisory role worked side-by-side with project teams to conduct integrity due diligence and to strengthen procurement, financial management, and anticorruption controls in COVID-19 project or program design. OAI reviewed 183 preapproval documents for 121 ADB-related projects—an increase of 103% from 2019. Of these, 21 were COVID-19-related sovereign projects.

Preapproval Documents Reviewed, 2020



COVID-19 = coronavirus disease.
Source: ADB (OAI).

OAI coordinated technical assistance under its tax integrity and anti-money laundering capacity building programs to support developing member countries in combating illicit financial flows through beneficial ownership reforms that meet international standards in both areas.

With many of ADB's developing member countries facing significant pressures on their budgets and public debt to finance measures to contain the pandemic and deal with its economic fallout, OAI stood at the center of ADB's renewed call for concerted action against the scourge of corruption and illicit financial flows. These deprive developing economies of valuable resources that could otherwise be used to address the needs of their populations and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Expressing his firm belief that one of the keys to success in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in a world reshaped by COVID-19 lies in strengthening domestic resource mobilization (DRM) and international tax cooperation (ITC), ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa announced the establishment of a regional hub on DRM and ITC in Asia and the Pacific at the ADB 53rd Annual Meeting.



Under the regional hub, governments will cooperate closely to improve tax yields in a fair and equitable manner—including by managing aggressive tax planning and combating tax evasion.



“ Multilateral development banks like ADB can promote truth, trust, and transparency as we support our developing members. These align with our roles as catalyzers of finance, knowledge providers, and conveners of partnerships. ”

ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa
At the International Anticorruption Conference
1 December 2020

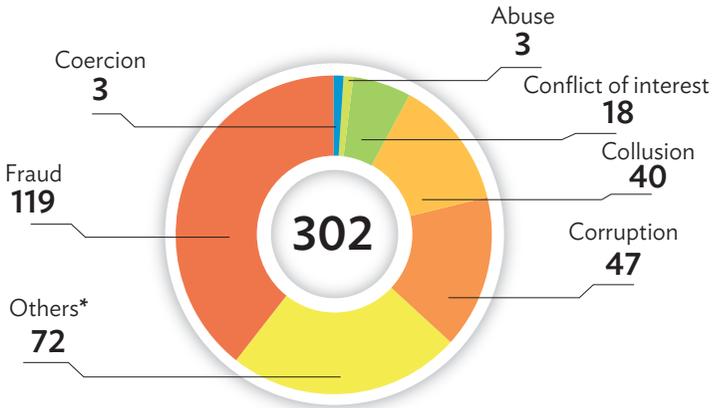
OAI also adjusted the focus of its capacity building efforts and learning events for staff and external participants, delivering expert and practical advice on such themes as fighting corruption at a time of crisis, safeguarding integrity in COVID-19 response and recovery efforts, and the impact of COVID-19 on the work of national anticorruption law enforcement agencies.

In 2021, OAI expects to provide hands-on support for identifying and managing integrity risks in ADB-financed vaccination projects. It will explore further measures to continue the efficient processing of complaints and investigations, while upholding the bank's policy of zero tolerance to fraud and corruption. Due to an increased impact of national sanctions regimes on ADB operations, OAI also anticipates a larger role in screening for related risks associated with contractors and consultants in ADB-financed sovereign projects.

OAI 2020 at a Glance

Complaints

Types of Complaints, 2020

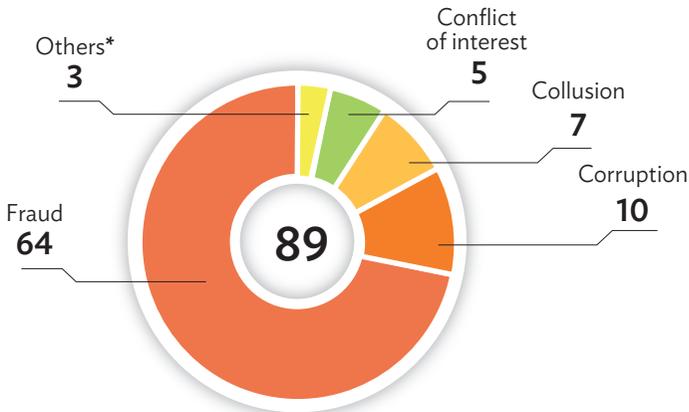


* The category “Others” refers to other integrity violations under the Integrity Principles and Guidelines (2015), such as sanctions violation, obstruction, not adhering to highest ethical standards, and includes complaints that are not integrity concerns.

Source: ADB (OAI).

External Investigations

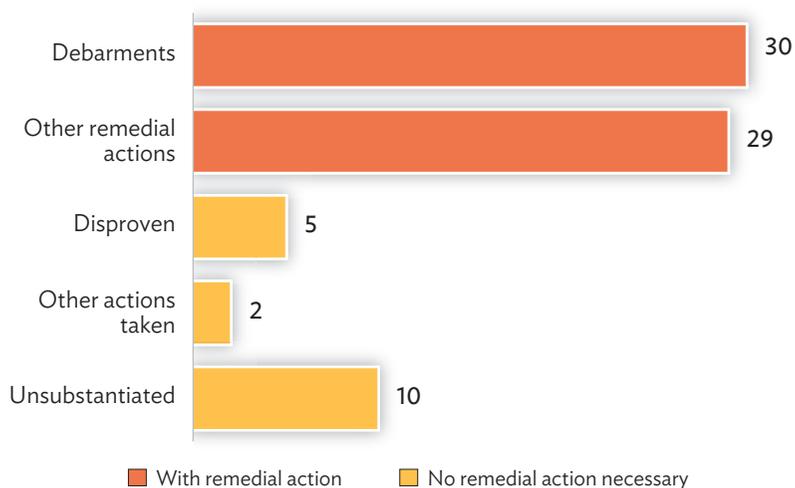
Types of External Investigations, 2020



* The category “Others” refers to other integrity violations under the Integrity Principles and Guidelines (2015), such as abuse.

Source: ADB (OAI).

External Investigations Closed, 2020



Source: ADB (OAI).

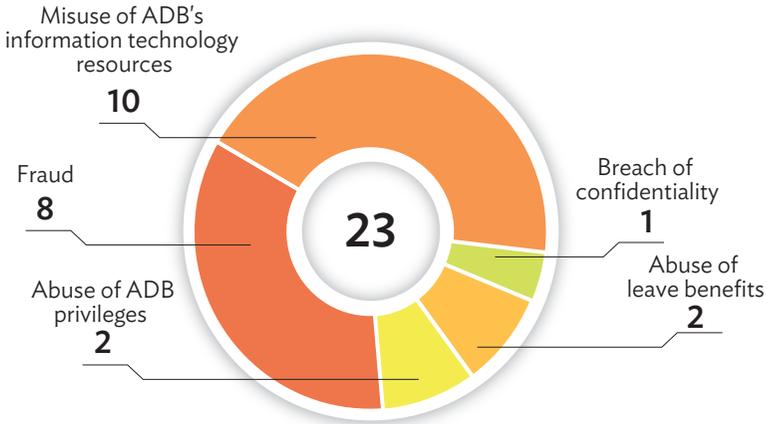
Remedial Actions for External Parties, 2020

Remedial Action	Firms	Individuals
Debarred		
<i>Accepted by subjects of interest</i>	76	10
<i>Imposed by the Integrity Oversight Committee</i>	13	21
Temporarily suspended	1	1
Reprimanded	37	10
Cautioned	16	11
Cross debarred	225	27

Source: ADB (OAI).

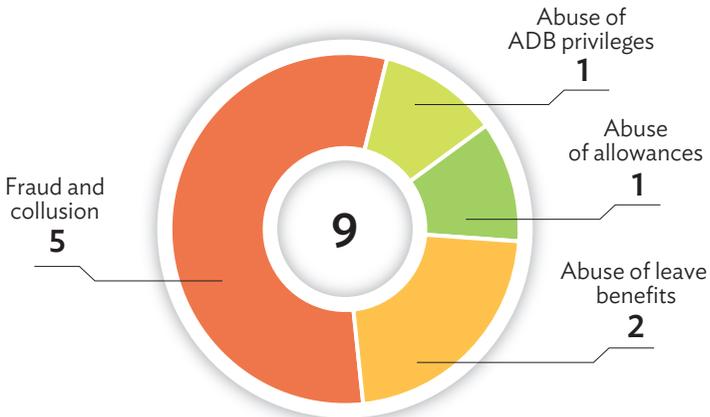
Internal Investigations

Investigations Submitted to Budget, People, and Management Systems Department, 2020



ADB = Asian Development Bank.
Source: ADB (OAI).

Cases with Action Taken by Budget, People, and Management Systems Department, 2020



ADB = Asian Development Bank.
Source: ADB (OAI).

Proactive Integrity Reviews

Profile of Projects Reviewed, 2020

Item	Number	Value
Reviews conducted		
<i>Full proactive integrity reviews</i>	3	\$249 million
<i>Follow-up reviews</i>	1	\$578 million
<i>Bids, proposals, and EOIs covered</i>	135	-
Contracts reviewed	30	\$177 million
Withdrawal applications reviewed	156	\$42 million

EOI = expression of interest.

Source: ADB (OAI).

Profile of Projects with Reports Issued, 2020

Item	Number	Value
Reviews conducted		
<i>Full proactive integrity reviews</i>	3	\$754 million
<i>Follow-up reviews</i>	1	\$97 million
<i>Bids, proposals, and EOIs covered</i>	152	-
Contracts reviewed	43	\$176 million
Withdrawal applications reviewed	150	\$94 million

EOI = expression of interest.

Source: ADB (OAI).

Knowledge and Communications

Learning Sessions and Participants, 2020

Activity	DMC Development Partners	ADB Staff and Consultants	Both DMC and ADB	Total
Sessions conducted	25	38	4	67
Participants reached	4,013	2,606	-	6,619

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

Source: ADB (OAI).



ADB's International Anticorruption Day celebration. (Clockwise from top left) OAI Head John Versantvoort, ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa, and keynote speakers Global Financial Integrity Policy Director Lakshmi Kumar and Sarawak Report Founder and journalist Clare Rewcastle Brown (photo by Ryan Dael).

About the Cover

In 2019, the Office of Anticorruption and Integrity (OAI) adopted the flame to symbolize enlightenment that shines awareness on integrity and its meaning for ADB. Its graduated colors reflect different perspectives and priorities, which, with collaboration, result in a synergy called One ADB.

In 2020, linked hands are integrated in the OAI flame to symbolize how we lifted each other up amidst an incredibly challenging year, continuing to collaborate as One ADB. It was a year of going outside our comfort zones to deliver results in ADB's COVID-19 response and support to DMCs.

The colors and the design of the flame reflect our solidarity with a world of pain, of being resilient, of getting through this global crisis, and emerging stronger together.

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