

COUNTRY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY FORMULATION

The key steps of the country partnership strategy formulation process are summarized as follows.

- In 2014, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) invited the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to provide knowledge support to their preparation of the 13th Five-Year Plan (13th Plan) for the People's Republic of China (PRC). ADB responded to this request through a "One ADB" approach by pulling together the intellectual resources available in all parts of ADB, supported by the TA project – TA 8641-PRC:: Support for the Thirteenth Five-Year Plan. ADB undertook research and provided practical policy recommendations on each of the eight challenges, namely (i) industrial transformation, (ii) balanced development of rural and urban areas, (iii) human resource transformation, (iv) environmental protection, (v) mitigation and adaptation of climate change, (vi) water security, (vii) subnational debt management, and (viii) further integration of the PRC with the international economic system.
- Director General of the East Asia Department (DG/EARD) outlined the key issues that need to be considered in the new Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) 2016-2020 for the PRC at the ADB-PRC Country Programming Mission on 28 August 2014. In February 2015, DG/EARD also informed the PRC authorities of the CPS preparation timetable and sought the government's support during the preparation process.
- The draft CPS Initiating Paper was circulated for peer review on 17 February 2015.
- The CPS Initiating Meeting was held on 20 March 2015, chaired by Vice President Stephen Groff.
- ADB conducted the CPS formulation consultations with the PRC authorities between 8 April and 29 May 2015. The main objectives were to (i) discuss the key issues of the new CPS; (ii) seek the government's views on the proposed strategic priorities; (iii) better understand the government's development and sector priorities of the upcoming 13th Plan; (iv) discuss areas where the government would like ADB to support and through which modalities; (v) exchange information with development partners and civil society; and (vi) inform all parties of the CPS preparation process and timeline. The Country Knowledge Plan (CKP) was also discussed as part of the CPS consultations.
- Consultations with the relevant central and local government agencies, development partners and civil society were carried out through: (i) bilateral or group meetings ; (ii) workshops such as the Third Strategic TA Programming Workshop (TA workshop) held on 28-29 April in Beijing where 121 central and local government officials participated, and workshops on the finance sector, regional cooperation and integration, public sector management, and private sector development held on 14-15 May; (iii) visits to provinces and autonomous regions, such as Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Yunnan Province, to discuss CPS issues with the local authorities; and (iv) the Third Asia Think Tank Summit held on 20-22 May.
- An Aide Memoire (AM) for the CPS formulation consultations was prepared. The draft AM was sent to the PRC authorities for review and comment on 12 June 2015. MOF sent the consolidated comments to ADB on 17 August 2015. The AM was finalized incorporating the PRC authorities' comments.

- An Informal Board Seminar on the CPS 2016-2020 for the PRC was held on 26 June 2015. Seven Executive Directors, nine Alternate Executive Directors, and sixteen Director's Advisors attended the seminar. The seminar was well received and generally positive.
- The Country Programming Mission (CPM) for the PRC was conducted in Beijing from 4 to 6 August 2015. The main objective was to discuss the PRC lending and non-lending programs for 2016-2018. Participants also exchanged views on emerging priorities and issues likely to affect country programming. "One ADB" support for PRC knowledge work was also discussed. The outcomes of the CPM form the basis for preparing the next Country Operations Business Plan (COBP) 2016-2018 for the PRC.
- The draft CPS (main text, draft sector assessments, and associated tables) was revised on the outcome of the CPS strategy formulation consultations as reflected in the Aide Memoire for the CPS formulation consultations and the Informal Board Seminar. The draft CPS was circulated for peer review in September 2015.
- A Management Committee Meeting (MCM) on the CPS 2016-2020 for the PRC was held on 7 December 2015 and 11 January 2016, chaired by President Nakao.
- The revised CPS incorporating the comments from the MCM was submitted for PRC government clearance on 27 October 2015. Revisions after the MCM were communicated to the PRC government.
- The final draft CPS was submitted to President for clearance and approval for circulation to the Board in January 2015.
- Board discussion on the CPS will be conducted on 16 February 2016.