THE ADB ARCHIVES GALLERY
The Asian Development Bank (ADB) Archives Gallery has been established to showcase the evolution of economic and development cooperation in Asia and the Pacific and the role of ADB in making this region free of poverty.

**Gallery Hours:**
Room 1239 inside the ADB Library
Open Mondays to Fridays
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
(Except on official holidays)

For inquiries and tours, email racenter@adb.org or call +63 2 632 4444 ext. 5050.
The ADB Charter

The Agreement Establishing the Asian Development Bank, also known as the ADB Charter, was opened for signature on 4 December 1965 in Manila, Philippines. The original document, in a single copy, remained open for signature at United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) in Bangkok, Thailand, until 31 January 1966. It was thereafter deposited with the Secretary-General of the UN. Being the depository, the UN sent certified copies of the Charter to all signatories. The Agreement came into force on 22 August 1966.
The time has come to roll up our sleeves and prepare to cultivate this era of self-discipline. From the seeds of this sacrifice will surely spring the fruits of economic prosperity.

- Takeshi Watanabe, Closing Session, Inaugural Meeting of the Board of Governors, Tokyo, Japan, 26 November 1966

The primary objective of the Bank is to help accelerate the economic development of the developing countries in Asia. To accomplish this, the Bank must not only know the hardships, problems, and dreams of these countries, but must also look at these hardships, problems, and dreams through the eyes of these countries. The Bank must, therefore, be located in a developing country.


The Asian Development Bank launched an Emblem Design Contest in 1967. The emblem designed by 28-year-old paraplegic Tseng Kuo-chiu from Taipei, China was chosen as the winning entry. The emblem has a circle made out of a stalk of grain and a gear wheel symbolizing agriculture and industry.

1972–present
ADB headquarters, 6 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City, Philippines

The photo collections capture images of all significant events from the establishment of ADB, to projects in the field, and officials who made the difference in improving people’s lives.

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On 1 December 1965, Manila was voted as the site of the ADB Headquarters. Based on the memoirs of Takeshi Watanabe, the First President of ADB, several other cities also offered to host, namely Bangkok, Colombo, Kabul, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Teheran, and Tokyo.

The Agreement Between the Asian Development Bank and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines Regarding the Headquarters of the Asian Development Bank was signed on 22 December 1966. A copy is on display.

In an article, Cornelio Balmaceda (Chairman of the Consultative Committee for the establishment of ADB) said that “...the Bank must not only know the hardships, problems, and dreams of these countries, but must also look at these hardships, problems, and dreams through the eyes of these countries. The Bank must, therefore, be located in a developing country.”

The UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, at its 21st Session held in Wellington, New Zealand, on 16-29 March 1965, unanimously adopted Resolution 62 (XXI) on the establishment of ADB. A copy of Resolution 62 is on display.
Excerpts from the Summary of Proceedings of the Inaugural Meeting of the Board of Governors

The Inaugural Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank was convened at Tokyo from 24 to 26 November 1966 by U Nyun, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, in accordance with Article 66 of the Agreement Establishing the Asian Development Bank which entered into force on 22 August 1966.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen and Appointment of Secretary

Mr. Takeo Fukuda, Governor for Japan, was elected Chairman of the Inaugural Meeting. Mr. N. M. Uquaili and Mr. Tan Siew Sin, Governors for Pakistan and Malaysia, respectively, were elected Vice-Chairmen. Mr. D. C. Gunesekera, the Project Manager in charge of the Preparatory Arrangements for the Establishment of the Bank, was appointed Secretary of the Meeting.

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda as adopted by the Governors is given in Appendix A-2.

Report of the Committee on Preparatory Arrangements for the Establishment of the Bank

The Chairman of the Committee on Preparatory Arrangements for the Establishment of the Asian Development Bank submitted a Report on the activities of the Committee (Appendix D-1). The report was approved by the Board of Governors.

Election of President

Under the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 34 of the Agreement, Mr. Takeshi Watanabe was unanimously elected President of the Bank.

Source: Proceedings of the Inaugural Meeting of the Board of Governors, Tokyo, Japan, 24-26 November 1966
In 1967, ADB launched an emblem design contest and was won by Tseng Kuo-chiu from Taipei, China. The emblem has a circle made out of a stalk of grain and a gear wheel symbolizing agriculture, industry, and economic development, and a white dove (designed like a boomerang) supports the words “Asian Development Bank.” This has been ADB’s official seal and reserved for ceremonial purposes, including the ADB flag. In 1997, ADB shifted to its corporate mark also known as the blue block. The blue block was created to project the image of ADB as a modern, dynamic development organization. In March 2000, the President approved its use as ADB’s primary identifier.
Regional Challenges and ADB Responses

A chronological timeline that depicts challenges that faced the Asia and Pacific region and ADB's strategic responses, including the expansion of the General Capital Increase through the years.
ADB Members

Members, Years of Joining
Afghanistan, 1966
Armenia, 2005
Australia, 1966
Austria, 1966
Azerbaijan, 1999
Bangladesh, 1973
Belgium, 1966
Bhutan, 1982
Brunei Darussalam, 2006
Cambodia, 1966
Canada, 1966
China, People’s Republic of, 1986
Cook Islands, 1976
Denmark, 1966
Fiji, 1970
Finland, 1966
France, 1970
Georgia, 2007
Germany, 1966
Hong Kong, China, 1969
India, 1966
Indonesia, 1966
Ireland, 2006
Italy, 1966
Japan, 1966
Kazakhstan, 1994
Kiribati, 1974
Korea, Republic of, 1966
Kyrgyz Republic, 1994
Lao People’s Democratic Republic, 1966
Luxembourg, 2003
Malaysia, 1966
Maldives, 1978
Marshall Islands, 1990
Micronesia, Federated States of, 1990
Mongolia, 1991
Myanmar, 1973
Nauru, 1991
Nepal, 1966
The Netherlands, 1966
New Zealand, 1966
Norway, 1966
Pakistan, 1966
Palau, 2003
Papua New Guinea, 1971
Philippines, 1966
Portugal, 2002
Samoa, 1966
Singapore, 1966
Solomon Islands, 1973
Spain, 1986
Sri Lanka, 1966
Sweden, 1966
Switzerland, 1967
Taipei, China, 1966
Tajikistan, 1998
Thailand, 1966
Timor-Leste, 2002
Tonga, 1972
Turkey, 1991
Turkmenistan, 2000
Tuvalu, 1993
United Kingdom, 1966
United States, 1966
Uzbekistan, 1995
Vanuatu, 1981
Viet Nam, 1966
The ADB Presidents in Action

Takeshi Watanabe
24 November 1966–24 November 1972

Mitsuo Sato
24 November 1993–15 January 1999

Tadao Chino
16 January 1999–31 January 2005

Haruhiko Kuroda
1 February 2005–18 March 2013

Takehiro Nakao
28 April 2013–Present

Shiro Inoue
25 November 1972–23 November 1976

Taroichi Yoshida

Masao Fujioka

Kimimasa Tarumizu
24 November 1989–23 November 1993
First Organizational Structure and First Staff Members at the Opening of ADB

Photo of President Takeshi Watanabe with ADB’s first staff members taken on 26 November 1966 at Tokyo Prince Hotel, Japan. Standing (L-R) are Toyoo Gyohten, Teruyuki Ohuchi, David Keller, Tasuku Takagaki, Frank Weeraratne, and Fusako Otahara. Seated (L-R) are Bong H. Kay, Masao Fujioka, Takeshi Watanabe, Douglas Gunesekera, and Robert Clark.

First Organizational Structure (1966-1967)
Establishment of Field Offices

Afghanistan Resident Mission (AFRM), 2002
Armenia Resident Mission (ARRM), 2008
Azerbaijan Resident Mission (AZRM), 2003
Bangladesh Resident Mission (BRM), 1982
Bhutan Resident Mission (BHRM), 2013
Cambodia Resident Mission (CARM), 1996
European Representative Office (ERO), 1996
Georgia Resident Mission (GRM), 2008
India Resident Mission (INRM), 1992
Indonesia Resident Mission (IRM), 1987
Japanese Representative Office (JRO), 1996
Kazakhstan Resident Mission (KARM), 1997
Kyrgyz Republic Resident Mission (KYRM), 1999
Lao PDR Resident Mission (LRM), 2000
Mongolia Resident Mission (MNRM), 2000
Myanmar Resident Mission (MYRM), 2014
Nepal Resident Mission (NRM), 1989
North American Representative Office (NARO), 1995
Pacific Liaison and Coordination Office (PLCO), 2005
Pakistan Resident Mission (PRM), 1989
Papua New Guinea Resident Mission (PNRM), 2002
People’s Republic of China Resident Mission (PRCM), 2000
Philippines Country Office (PhCO), 2000
Sri Lanka Resident Mission (SLRM), 1997
South Pacific Subregional Office (SPSO), 1984
Tajikistan Resident Mission (TJRM), 2003
Thailand Resident Mission (TRM), 2004
Timor-Leste Resident Mission (TLRM), 2003
Turkmenistan Resident Mission (TKRM), 2008
Uzbekistan Resident Mission (URM), 1997
Viet Nam Resident Mission (VRM), 1996
The first ADB loan was extended to the Industrial Finance Corporation of Thailand in the amount $5 million for the development of industrial enterprises in Thailand. It was authorized by the ADB Board of Directors on 23 January 1968.

The first Technical Assistance for the improvement of food production in Indonesia was approved by the ADB Board of Directors on 30 August 1967.
Strategy 2020, the Long-Term Strategic Framework of the Asian Development Bank, reaffirms both ADB’s vision of an Asia and Pacific free of poverty and its mission to help developing member countries improve the living conditions and quality of life of their people. In early 2014, ADB undertook a midterm review of Strategy 2020 to prepare itself to meet the challenges of a transforming Asia and the Pacific. ADB President Takehiko Nakao approved an Action Plan to implement the outcomes of the Midterm Review of Strategy 2020.
In May 2015, the ADB Board of Governors approved a groundbreaking initiative to combine the lending operations of ADB’s Asian Development Fund (ADF) with its ordinary capital resources (OCR) balance sheet in order to increase lending capacity, more efficiently and effectively utilizing ADB’s existing resources.
The ADB Archives

The ADB Archives, established since 1967, is the official depository and source of the permanently valuable records of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). It is responsible for ensuring that archival records of ADB are provided adequate facilities for their storage, preservation, maintenance, security, and retrieval. It is administered by the Office of Administrative Services.

About the Asian Development Bank

ADB’s vision is an Asia and Pacific region free of poverty. Its mission is to help its developing member countries reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of their people. Despite the region’s many successes, it remains home to the majority of the world’s poor. ADB is committed to reducing poverty through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration.

Based in Manila, ADB is owned by 67 members, including 48 from the region. Its main instruments for helping its developing member countries are policy dialogue, loans, equity investments, guarantees, grants, and technical assistance.