Since its inception in 1995, the LPR Program has covered five principal areas:

**ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**
- judicial capacity development
- climate change
- clean and renewable energy

**PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT**
- corporate governance
- bankruptcy and insolvency
- public–private partnerships

**INFRASTRUCTURE LAW AND REGULATION**
- water
- energy
- land

**FINANCIAL LAW AND REGULATION**
- anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT)
- capital markets regulation

**INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE**
- legal identity
- legal literacy
- gender equity
- microfinance

The role of good governance and the Rule of Law in development is vital. It builds and supports confidence in public institutions and provides assurances that taxpayer money is being spent efficiently, effectively and ethically, and that the “rules of the game” regarding business and investment are established and applied fairly and consistently. The confidence of an economy’s stakeholders—including taxpayers, businesses, entrepreneurs, employees, lenders, and investors—is a crucial component of sustainable and inclusive development.
SUCCESS STORIES

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- Chief Justices and Judicial Roundtables on Environmental Justice and Adjudication
  Held in Southeast Asia and South Asia, this is the only forum in the world that gathers chief justices and senior judges from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and South Asian countries to discuss the effective implementation of environmental treaties, conventions and domestic legislation. The results have included creation of green benches/courts in various member countries—including Pakistan, Malaysia, and Bhutan—that specialize on environmental matters to enhance effective application consistent with international practice;
- establishment of a judicial certification program on environmental law in Indonesia;
- preparation of Rules of Procedure for Environmental Cases for the Philippine courts;
- creation of a training program for judges on environmental matters in member countries including Pakistan, the People’s Republic of China, and Sri Lanka;
- undertaking needs assessments in Viet Nam and Myanmar to identify and address gaps in the legal and regulatory frameworks on environmental law;
- publication of knowledge products such as books that review and codify key environmental concepts and case law in Pakistan and Bhutan.

AN ‘ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CHAMPIONS’ PROGRAM

These are innovative train-the-trainers modules developed and implemented by the Association of Southeast Asian Law teachers, public interest lawyers, and other environmental law professionals. The modules are aimed at developing a pool of national environmental champions who pass along their knowledge to judges and practitioners in their home countries.

BACKGROUND

The Office of the General Counsel has been managing the Law and Policy Reform (LPR) Program of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) since 1995. Under the program, OGC conceives, designs, processes, and implements technical assistance projects directly to developing member countries in areas relating to legal and judicial reforms.

THE LPR PROPOSITION

The central premise of the LPR Program is that a functioning legal system is essential to sustainable development. Such a system is anchored on the Rule of Law and comprises a comprehensive legal framework and effective judicial, regulatory, and administrative institutions that establish, implement, and enforce laws and regulations fairly, consistently, ethically, and predictably.

INFRASTRUCTURE LAW AND REGULATION

- Launch of a program for the institutional strengthening of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in Law to harmonize legal and regulatory frameworks for regional integration;
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of water and electricity sector regulation in Southeast Asian countries and small-island developing states in the Pacific through regional and national case studies to facilitate improvements toward international standards;
- Assistance in preparation of Indonesia’s Land Acquisition Law to provide legal certainty and a clear land acquisition time frame for public infrastructure.

FINANCIAL LAW AND REGULATION

- Providing legislative advisory support to the People’s Republic of China on amendments to the Securities Law and the new Futures Law;
- Developing capacities of prosecutorial, judicial, and law enforcement authorities on AML/CFT in Mongolia;
- Strengthening the AML/CFT regime in Tajikistan by preparing the country’s national risk assessment, identifying gaps in their laws and regulations, and enhancing their internal control;
- Assisting the preparation of AML/CFT national risk assessment for Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, and Papua New Guinea;
- Managing the Cooperation Fund for Regional Trade and Financial Security Initiative, funded by the Governments of Australia, Japan, and the United States that have financed numerous AML/CFT technical assistance projects.

PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

- Advising on a legal framework for insolvency regime in Southeast Asian developing members post-Asian financial crisis in order to facilitate private investment;
- Advising the People’s Republic of China on the development of banking programs supportive of small and medium-sized enterprises and microfinancing;
- Advising on the adoption of new or enhanced public–private partnership laws in many member countries.

INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

- Establishing a legal literacy program for women in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan to combat violence against women;
- Supporting the development of a Gender Equality Law in the Maldives.
SUCCESS STORIES

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

■ CHIEF JUSTICES AND JUDICIAL RUNDOUTABLES ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND ADJUDICATION

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- preparation of Rules of Procedure for Environmental Cases for the Philippine courts,
- creation of a training program for judges on environmental matters in member countries including Pakistan, the Republic of China, and Sri Lanka,
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FINANCIAL LAW AND REGULATION

■ PROVIDING LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY SUPPORT TO THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON AMENDMENTS TO THE SECURITIES LAW

- Launch of a program for the institutional strengthening of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in Law to harmonize legal and regulatory frameworks for regional integration
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of water and electricity sector regulations in Southeast Asian countries and small-island developing states in the Pacific through regional and national case studies to facilitate improvements toward international standards
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PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

■ ADVISING ON A LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR INSOLVENCY REFORM IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

- Advising on the development of banking programs supportive of small and medium-sized enterprises and microfinancing
- Advising on the adoption of new or enhanced public-private partnership laws in many member countries

INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

■ ESTABLISHING A LEGAL LITERACY PROGRAM FOR WOMEN IN PAKISTAN, AFGHANISTAN, AND TAJIKISTAN TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- Supporting the development of a Gender Equality Law in the Maldives

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MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL AYESHA TAPTIL KHARMIRO AND HEAD OF THE FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT RAZIM BUKH APPRECIATING ADB’S AML/CFT ASSISTANCE IN BF

Nepal President Bidya Devi Bhandari and Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Sharma (CS) inaugurating the new conference centre in Bhutan.

Minister of Finance and Attorney General Ayesha Taptil Kharmiro and Head of the Financial Intelligence Unit Razim Bukh appreciating ADB’s AML/CFT assistance to BF.

Mr. General Counsel Christopher Stephens and former ADB Vice President Bruce Davis with former Bhutan Chief Justice LaxmiSilpaTak PKoltsi and Adj. ADB’s partnership with SAACLAW

AOF President Taekjin Nicolas with Philippine Chief Justice Six Leonen Senior

Senior ASEAN judge discussing environmental justice

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- Judicial capacity development
- Climate change
- Clean and renewable energy

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- Corporate governance
- Bankruptcy and insolvency
- Public–private partnerships

Infrastructure Law and Regulation

- Water
- Energy
- Land

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MOVING FORWARD

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Effective Legal Systems for Sustainable Development

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