

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK  
**SUSTAINABILITY  
REPORT**

Investing in Asia and  
the Pacific's Future

Asian Development Bank

# SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS 2011–2012



Supports Inclusive Economic Growth, Environmentally Sustainable Growth, and Regional Integration to help achieve the vision of an Asia and Pacific free of poverty

## Investing in the Future

Funding has **Increased** to help create and expand economic opportunities in the region



**\$13 billion** invested in environmental sustainability for a **Cleaner, Greener Growth** path

## Improving ADB's Operations



Public Communications Policy **Recognizes** the **Right to Information**



ADB funds **Leveraged** **\$16 billion** of **Cofinance** (official and commercial)

For all approved projects **Impacts** on the environment and people were **Assessed**

Environmental Safeguards



Involuntary Resettlement Safeguards



Indigenous Peoples Safeguards

Accountability Mechanism **Improved** to make access **Easier** for affected people

## Managing ADB's Footprint

Our headquarters **Upgraded** to improve **Resource Efficiency**

ISO 50001 certified

LEED Gold certified



Solar



Hybrid Cars



Rainwater Harvesting



Recycling

Nationality

Gender

Age



Religion

Disability

Lifestyle

Our People Strategy **Promotes** a **Diverse** and **Inclusive** workplace



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6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City  
1550 Metro Manila, Philippines  
Tel +63 2 632 4444  
Fax +63 2 636 4442  
[www.adb.org](http://www.adb.org)

For orders, please contact:  
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[adbpub@adb.org](mailto:adbpub@adb.org)



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# THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

Our long-term vision is of an Asia and Pacific free of poverty. The region's ability to reduce poverty, however, depends on inclusive economic growth and a well-managed natural environment. But climate change and other environmental challenges are endangering these goals. Our long-term strategy for 2008–2020 is based on supporting our developing member countries through inclusive, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional cooperation and integration.

It is essential for the projects we support in the short and medium terms to provide sustainable benefits for promoting inclusive growth, especially for the poorest segments of the population. Several signs of positive change have emerged since the Rio+20 Conference, including an increasing number of regional initiatives promoting green growth. By supporting this transition to green growth, we are increasingly investing in sustainable infrastructure, natural capital, and capacity development for environmental governance, while also mitigating and adapting to climate change. Of course, we remain accountable for any adverse impacts that our projects have on people and the environment under this agenda.

Our record shows that as an organization we take these matters very seriously. In 2012, gender was mainstreamed in 49% of our operations, against a target of 40%. The share in terms of number of projects with environmental sustainability as a theme in 2012 brought the 3-year average to 44%, exceeding our target of 25% for 2010–2012. And we achieved our 2013 target for investing \$2 billion a year in clean energy ahead of schedule. The ratio of sovereign operations involving civil society organizations rose to 98% in 2012, exceeding our target of 80%.

Standard & Poor's notes that, in comparison with the other multilateral development banks, ADB is consistently run with the lowest overhead. I am proud of this recognition and other notable accomplishments, including cutting processing time for most of our operations by two-thirds during the last 4 years. We have also put in place a new results framework to help us improve our focus on sustainability by including more outcome-orientated indicators. We were also awarded a LEED Gold certificate in 2011 for the environmental performance of our headquarters in Manila. Recently, we have also increased our headquarters office temperature to further reduce our energy footprint. Building on this achievement, we are aiming for LEED Gold recognition for the addition to our headquarters building, which will be completed in 2014.

But we know we can do more.

In response to the region's many needs, we continue to review and refine our operations to achieve maximum effectiveness; to learn from our experience and our development partners; and to develop policies, strategies, and programs that respond to the needs of present and future generations. Our role in the region is also changing, and our financing, innovation, and knowledge solutions are becoming more partnership-based to strengthen our ability to deliver our vision.

Combined with knowledge and leverage of additional resources, from both the public and private sectors, our assistance to developing member countries during 2008–2012 supported their rapid growth. We helped fill their infrastructure gaps and contributed to their progress on poverty reduction and the Millennium Development Goals. Some of these are within reach of the 2015 target, but several—including hunger, health, and sanitation—are behind schedule. The post-2015 agenda, anchored on sustainable development underpinned by inclusive growth and embedded in equity, seeks to drive transformational change. Recognizing the daunting task ahead, our donor members supported the Asian Development Fund by replenishing it with \$12.4 billion in 2012.

We will continue to invest in the future and work diligently to help Asia and the Pacific combat poverty and overcome the sustainability challenges ahead. We remain committed to our ongoing efforts to abide by the advice we give out and help the region transition to green growth.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Takehiko Nakao'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

Takehiko Nakao  
President  
Asian Development Bank

# FOREWORD

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) *Sustainability Report* has been issued every 2 years since 2007. For 2013, the *Sustainability Report* contains selected sustainability performance highlights of ADB's operations and its corporate footprint during 2011–2012. For the first time, the *Sustainability Report* is accompanied by an expanded online version (available at [www.adb.org/documents/asian-development-bank-sustainability-report-2013](http://www.adb.org/documents/asian-development-bank-sustainability-report-2013)) that provides a more detailed review of ADB's performance, including an extensive response to the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Sustainability Reporting Guidelines. The content of the *Sustainability Report* and its expanded version allow stakeholders to assess ADB's sustainability performance during 2011–2012.

The *Sustainability Report* focuses on two main areas: ADB's operations and its corporate footprint.

Sections pertinent to ADB's operations focus on key issues related to the drivers of change and core operational areas under Strategy 2020 as being of material interest. Strategy 2020 reaffirms ADB's mission to help developing member countries improve the living conditions and quality of life of their people. As a multilateral development bank, assistance offered is primarily financial but, more and more, leveraging of resources and the dissemination of knowledge and information play a crucial role. The midpoint of Strategy 2020 is fast approaching and ADB is currently taking stock of its progress toward meeting its operational and institutional goals. These include escalating assistance to support environmentally sustainable development, including efforts to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and climate change, in line with the recently adopted Environment Operational Directions 2013–2020 promoting transitions to green growth. The midterm review of Strategy 2020 is to be completed in May 2014.

In relation to ADB's corporate footprint, administration, and management, the focus is on ADB's environmental footprint, staff, and community engagement as topics of material interest. Being the first multilateral development bank to achieve ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 in 2003 and more recently ISO 50001 for energy management in 2012, ADB must continue to ensure that what it advocates on environmental sustainability is put into practice closer to home. ADB owns its headquarters (which houses 77% of staff) and the buildings in which 2 of its 31 field offices are located: in Bangladesh and India. For building performance, data are currently only recorded for ADB headquarters in Manila. Recognizing its area of influence is much larger, ADB is arranging for this information to be collected for all field offices in the future to provide a more accurate picture of its environmental footprint.

As in previous years, the *Sustainability Report* responds to the GRI standard disclosures. In addition, for 2011–2012, ADB reports on the sector-specific indicators from the GRI financial services and public agency supplements. In reporting on its performance, ADB has attempted to provide balanced, comparable, accurate, timely, clear, and reliable information; where data gaps exist, these are noted. Details of ADB strategies, policies, operational plans, and individual investments are provided on the ADB website and are not reported herein.

The *Sustainability Report* is the result of an organizationwide effort, with inputs from staff from all relevant departments and offices. Its preparation was overseen by us and led by Nessim J. Ahmad, Director of the Environment and Safeguards Division, with key support from Daniele Ponzi, Lead Environment Specialist, and Emma Marsden, Environment Specialist from the Environment and Safeguards Division of the Regional and Sustainable Development Department; and Chatiya Nantham, Lead Facilities Planning and Management Specialist, and Natasha Davis, Senior Planning and Coordination Specialist from the Office of Administrative Services. Thanks are extended to all the focal points who supplied information to address to the GRI disclosures and commented on the draft versions of the *Sustainability Report* and its expanded version, liaising with their offices as needed. Feedback is welcomed and can be sent to [njahmad@adb.org](mailto:njahmad@adb.org).



WooChong Um  
Officer-in-Charge  
Regional and Sustainable Development Department



Hyong-Jong Yu  
Principal Director  
Office of Administrative Services

# CONTENTS

The President's Statement	iii
Foreword	iv
Strategy and Structure	2
Investing in the Future	4
Improving ADB's Operations	8
Managing ADB's Footprint	11

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# ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
BRT	bus rapid transit
CAREC	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation
CO <sub>2</sub>	carbon dioxide
CTI	Coral Triangle Initiative
E <sup>2</sup> HSMS	Energy, Environment, Health, and Safety Management System
GHG	greenhouse gas
GMS	Greater Mekong Subregion
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
LEED	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
OHSAS	Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Services
SCF	Staff Community Fund
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

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# STRATEGY AND STRUCTURE

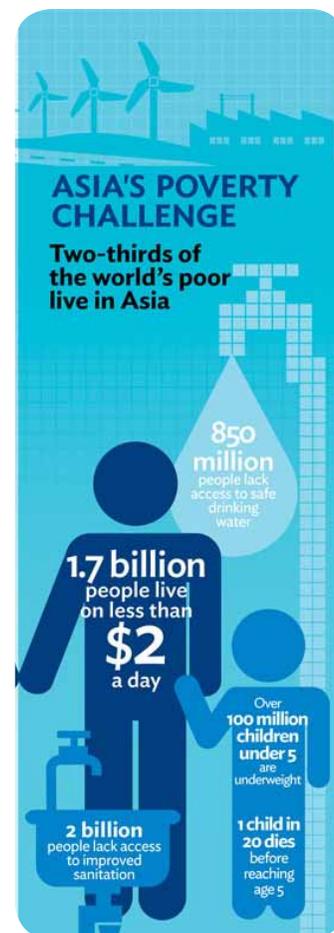


As the multilateral development bank specializing in Asia and the Pacific, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has its own legal status and operates according to its Charter (and bylaws), under which ADB was established in 1965. ADB is owned by its 67 member countries. To achieve its vision of an Asia and Pacific region free of poverty, ADB assists the public sector—the primary clients are the national governments of its developing member countries—and the private sector through loans, grants, equity investments, guarantees, policy dialogue, technical assistance, leveraging of resources, and the dissemination of knowledge and information.

ADB recognizes that the pursuit of sustainable development is a delicate balancing act: it requires implementing policies, strategies, programs, and projects that treat environment and development as

agendas: inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration.

Strategy 2020 identifies the drivers of change that will be stressed in all ADB's work—private sector development and operations, good governance and capacity development, gender equity, knowledge solutions, and partnerships. Strategy 2020 also directs that ADB's work will increasingly be concentrated in five core operational areas—infrastructure; environment, including climate change; regional cooperation and integration; finance sector development; and education. These core operational areas best support ADB's agenda and



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