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Thematic Opportunities —Regional Cooperation and Integration

Kwang Jo (KJ) Jeong CCSD / CCRC 10 OCTOBER 2024





Contents

- 1. RCI and ADB Strategy 2030
- 2. Accelerate RCI through Innovation
- 3. Recent RCI Operations
- 4. Fostering RCI Operations in the Future
- 5. Conclusions









RCI and ADB Strategy 2030







RCI and ADB Strategy 2030

RCI is a Charter Mandate

ADB Charter

"To foster economic growth and co-operation in the region and contribute to economic development collectively and individually."

Regional Cooperation **Policy**

ADB has three roles in promoting RCI: honest broker, knowledge provider, mobilizer of project financing

RCI Strategy 2006

Four interrelated Pillars:

- regional and subregional programs on cross-border infrastructure and related software
- trade and investment
- money and finance
- regional public goods such as prevention of communicable diseases & environmental degradation.

Following Strategy 2020

One of 3 complementary strategic agendas and one of 5 operational priorities

RCI in Strategy 2020

RCI Operational Plan 2016-2020

Mid Term Review: focused on strengthening connectivity between economies, enhancing competitiveness acrossi connected markets, and improving regional public goods and collective action.

Strategy 2030 **Mid-Term Review**

RCI was regarded as one of the five strategic areas where accelerate work is needed.

One of 7 **Operational Priorities of**

Strategy 2030

RCI in Strategy 2030

RCI Operational

Plan 2019-2024

2016

2019



ADB Subregional RCI Project Commitments



Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation program

276 regional investment projects amounting to \$51B with ADB financing of \$17.6 B from 2001 – 2023



Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) program

124 regional investment projects amounting to \$29.95 B with ADB financing of \$14.11 B from 1994 – 2023



South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation program

86 regional investment projects amounting to \$20.54 B with ADB financing of \$12.63 B from 2001 – 2023





ADB S2030: OP7- Fostering RCI (2019-2024)

S 2030 Operational Priority 7

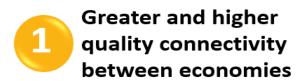
Regional

Cooperation and Integration

OP7 definition of Innovation in RCI

- Nascent sectors / subsectors
- New geographical countries and areas
- New intersubregional RCI
- Non-sovereign/PPP

Strategic Operational Priorities





Regional public goods increased and diversified

Operational Approaches



Multimodal transport infrastructure connectivity



Renewable energy and sustainable transport



'Soft' infrastructure for implementation of trade and investment agreements Economic Corridors



Regional financial cooperation



Regional climate change mitigation and adaptation



Environment and sustainable tourism



Regional education and health services





Accelerate RCI through INNOVATION

- Enhance diversification into nascent sectors
- Expand RCI operations into new geographic areas
- Support inter-subregional RCI operations
- Boost private sector/PPP







INNOVATION – Enhance diversification into nascent sectors

Transport: Strengthen Multi Modal Connectivity such as Smart Port and Shipping



Strengthening Multimodal and Integrated Logistics Ecosystem Program (Subprogram 2)

(ADB Financing of \$350 million, Ongoing project for approval in November 2024)

- The program aims to expand India's manufacturing sector and improve resilience of its supply chains through the establishment and operationalization of a comprehensive policy framework.
- Logistics efficiency will be enhanced through (i) strengthening the institutional bases for multimodal logistics infrastructure development at the national, state, and city levels; (ii) standardizing warehousing and other logistics assets to strengthen supply chains and incentivize greater private sector investment; (iii) improving efficiencies in external trade logistics; and (iv) adopting smart systems for efficient and low-emission logistics.







INNOVATION — Expand RCI operations into new geographic areas

Regional Recycling Network in the Pacific



Regional Recycling Network in the Pacific (ADB Financing of \$21 million, proposed project for approval 2024)

- The proposed regional recycling network for solid waste in the Pacific and the establishment of one regional hub that will be supplied by neighboring PICs is an innovative solution to the weak business case for waste recycling in the region.
- The regional cooperation agreement in the solid waste sector that the project will create has not been previously attempted nor achieved on such a scale. The project will bring together 14 governments to find a collective solution to national issues that have transnational impacts.
- The regional recycling network will address cross border environmental issue of recyclable waste going into oceans that impact shared marine resources and marine biodiversity among PICs.





INNOVATION – Support Inter-subregional RCI operations

Trade - Climate Change Nexus



Operationalizing Trade Reforms and Strengthening Trade Climate Linkages in ADB Operations

(ADB Financing of \$1.9 million, Approved Aug 2024)

- Operational Priorities:
 - 1) Addressing remaining poverty & reducing inequalities
 - 2) Tackling climate change and disaster resilience and enhancing environmental sustainability
 - 3) Strengthening governance and institutional capacity
 - 4) Fostering regional cooperation and integration
- Main outputs:
 - Policy framework on trade and climate change agenda strengthened
 - Capacity of DMCs to incorporate climate considerations into trade strengthened
 - 3) Pipeline of trade projects incorporating climate considerations developed





INNOVATION - Boost Private Sector/PPP

Increase Non-Sovereign and PPP projects



Lao PDR: Monsoon Wind Power Project
(ADB Financing of \$100 million, Approved in November 2022)

Supports Pillar 1 of RCI on renewable energy:

- The project entails a wind power project with a contracted capacity of 600-megawatt (MW) to be constructed in Lao PDR that will export and sell electricity into neighboring Viet Nam.
- It is the first wind power project in Lao PDR, the largest in Southeast Asia, and the first cross-border in Asia.
- The project will provide a substantial source of clean renewable energy supply to Viet Nam to help meet the country's growing energy demand.
- The project will help unlock Lao PDR's significant untapped wind resource potential and provide social and economic benefits to the country in the form of employment, improved infrastructure, increased regional connectivity, and revenues through collection of royalties, lease payments, and taxes.





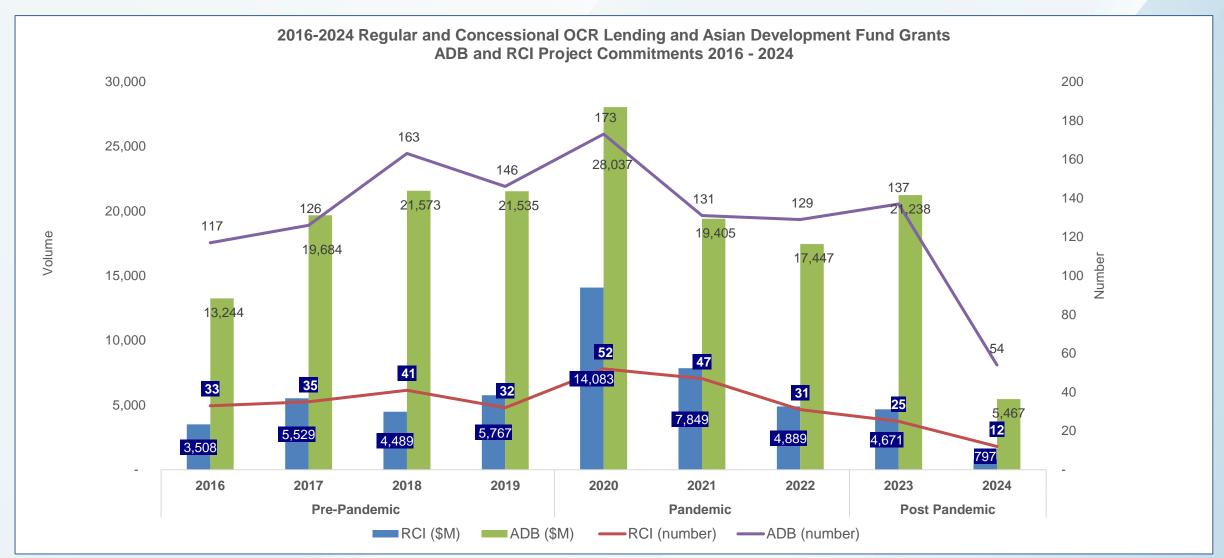


Recent RCI Operations





ADB RCI Portfolio 2016-2024



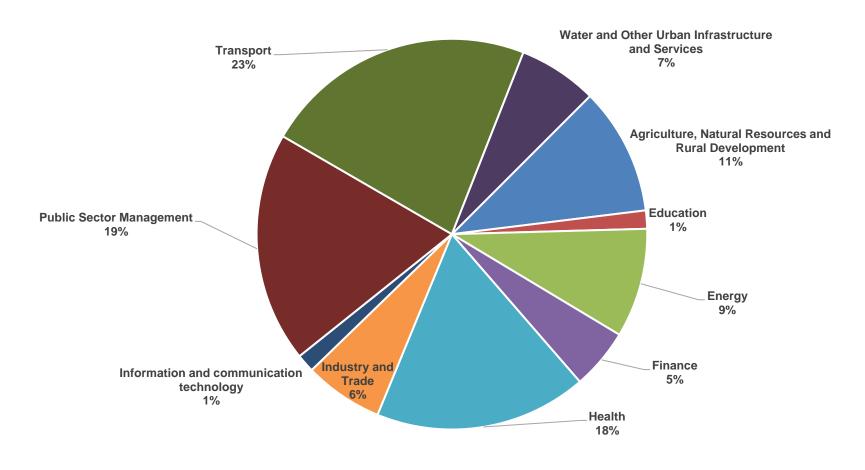






ADB RCI Portfolio 2019-2024

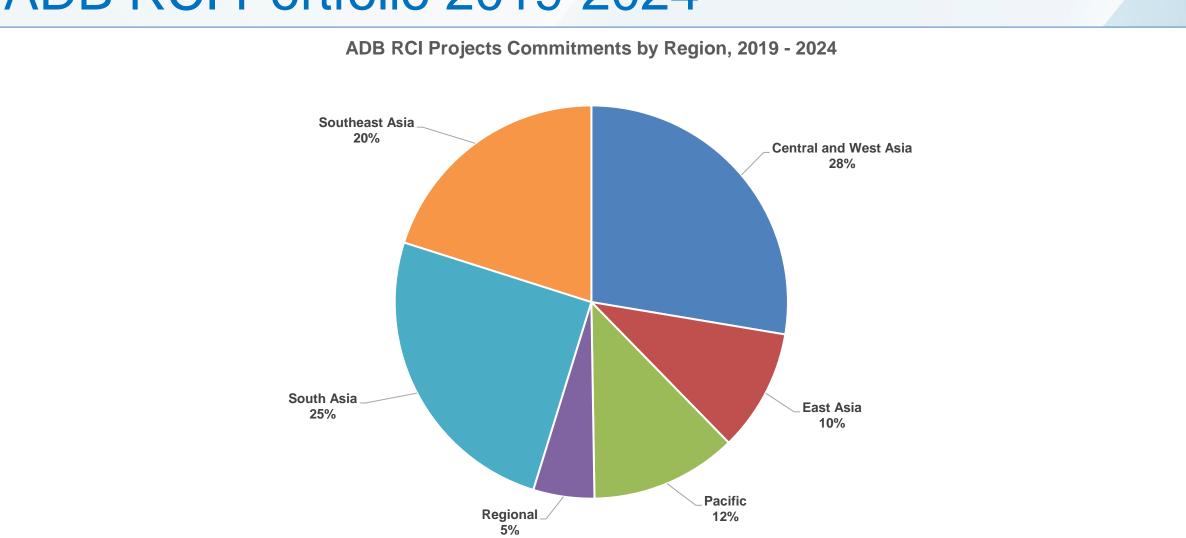
ADB RCI Projects Commitments by Sector, 2019 - 2024







ADB RCI Portfolio 2019-2024









Fostering RCI Operations





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Mid Term Review 2030: 5 Focus Areas

Climate action indicators and targets: More than \$100 billion in cumulative climate finance (2019–2030) and for climate finance to reach 50% of the total committed

financing volume, by 2030

Regional cooperation and public goods indicator and target: 30% of operations contributing to RCI, including those supporting public goods by 2030



Private sector development indicators and targets: \$13 billion of ADB's own account financing and all direct mobilization, including a minimum of \$4.5 billion in direct private capital mobilization, and 40% of sovereign operations contributing to PSD, by 2030

Digital transformation indicator and target:

Operations supporting digital transformation expected to grow year over year across sovereign and nonsovereign operations

Resilience and empowerment

indicators and targets: 60% gender mainstreaming across sovereign and nonsovereign operations and 75% of operations supporting poverty reduction and inclusiveness, by 2030





ADB's 3 Roles in RCI will be even more Important

Honest Broker

- Step up secretariat roles in subregional cooperation programs
- Strengthen
 coordination and
 catalytic role in
 addressing shared
 development issues
- Maximize use of digital technology platform
- Facilitate intersubregional RCI
- Bring in more development partners

Knowledge Provider and Capacity Builder

- Broaden and deepen
 RCI knowledge/skills in emerging areas
- Greater innovation in generating and disseminating knowledge
- Mainstream digital innovations

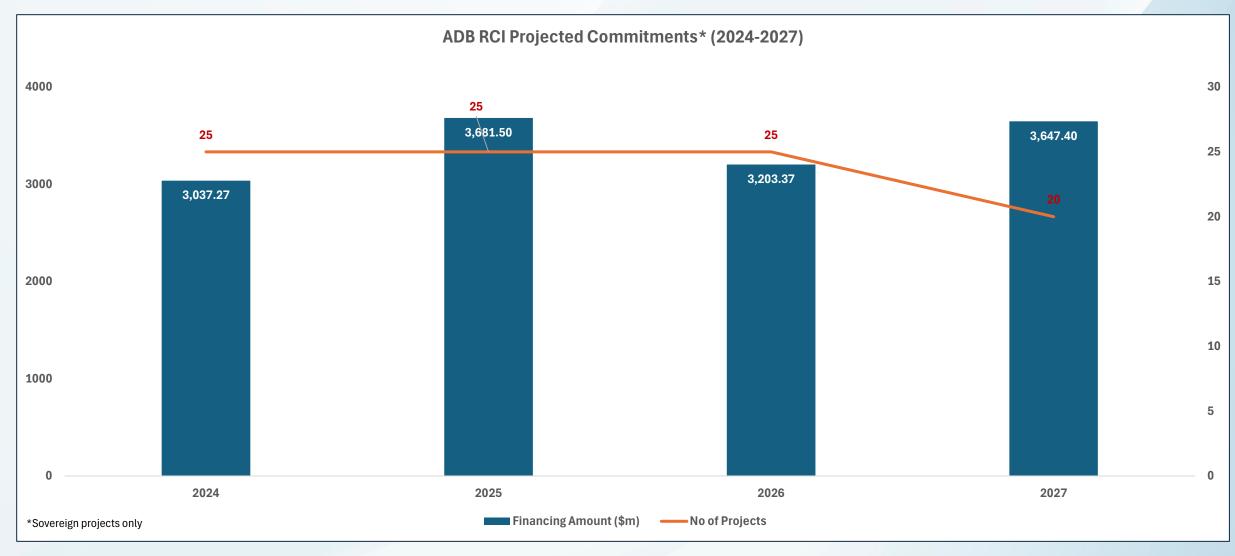
Mobilizer of Project Financing

- Promote domestic resource mobilization for RCI projects
- Encourage higher costsharing by higher-income DMCs
- Expand cofinancing to invest in new sectors/subsectors
- Explore new private sector financing for cross-border investments





ADB Future Work: WPBF 2024-2027

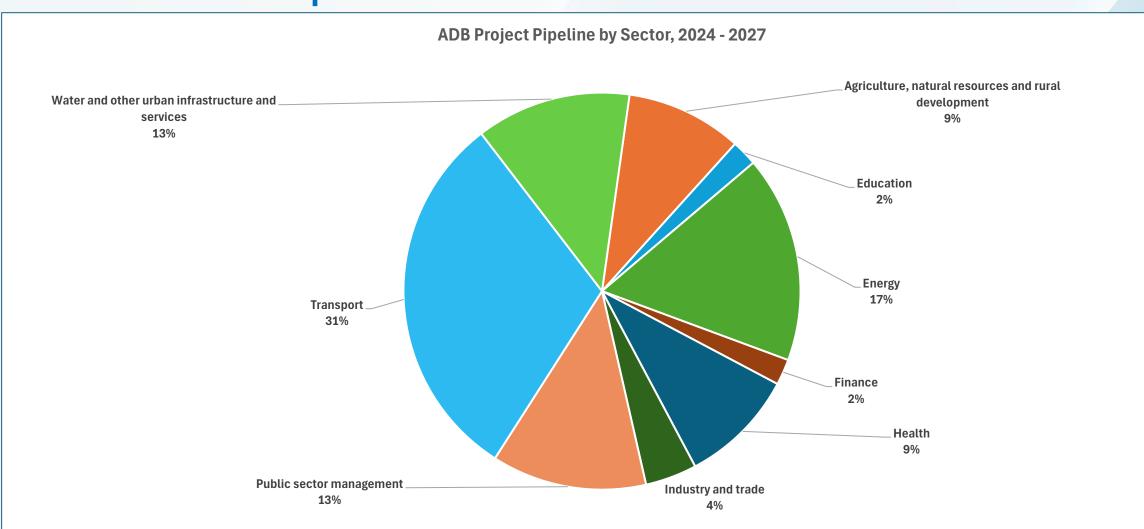








Future RCI Operational Focus Areas

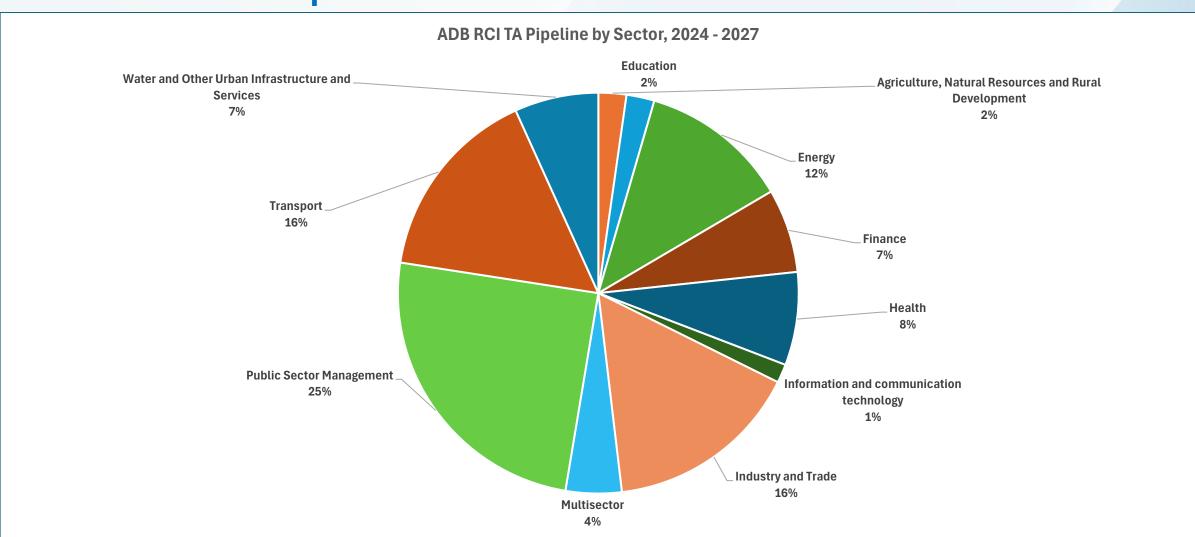








Future RCI Operational Focus Areas







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RCI Business Opportunities

Area



Procurement



Biodiversity

Green Finance

Blue Finance



Consultancy Services



Technical Assistance



Nonsovereign projects across borders



Policy Reform Advice related to Policy-based Lending (PBL)



Climate & Disaster Resilience

Connectivity Infrastructure

Economic Corridor Projects

- Critical Minerals & Clean Energy Technologies Supply Chains
- * RCI Economics



- ❖ Agriculture value chain
- Digital technologies at border crossing points (BCPs)
- Logistics Systems

Sectors



Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development



Energy



Public Sector Management and Governance



Finance



Transport



Human and Social Development



Water and Urban Development







Project Examples

Alaoa Multipurpose Dam Project



Alaoa Multipurpose Dam Project (ADB Financing of \$99.7 million, Approved in July 2024)

- ➤ The multipurpose dam is intended to increase flood protection, supply seasonal water, and provide additional hydropower. The project will support Samoa's climate adaptation and mitigation efforts by addressing interrelated development challenges in flood management, sustainable water supply, and energy security.
- ➤ Supports Pillar 3 of RCI: Biodiversity management One of the main threats for this biodiversity is the uncontrolled spread of introduced invasive alien species, which have been introduced mostly through international trade. As part of an overall approach to sustainability, the biodiversity management and monitoring plan, including the pilot-testing biodiversity fund, addresses invasive species control and eradication.







Project Examples

Critical Minerals and Clean Energy Technologies Supply Chains



Advance Sustainable Clean Energy Network for Development (\$1.25 million, Approved in June 2024)

- The technical assistance (TA) aims to support the development of diversified and responsible critical mineral (CM) and clean energy technology (CET) manufacturing supply chains by providing knowledge solutions, creating a platform for policy dialogue, and supporting capacity building for the creation of a financing facility.
- Supports all Pillars of RCI: It adopts a comprehensive approach encompassing integration of CM production with regional CET supply chains, creating enabling environments for domestic value addition, promoting regional policy dialogues, and catalyzing finance to develop diverse and resilient CM and CET supply chains.

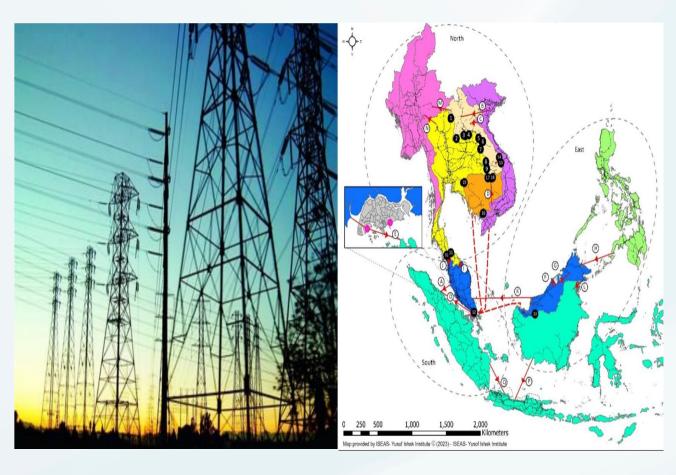






Project Examples

Enhancing Electricity Interconnectedness – ASEAN Power Grid



Advancing Energy Transition and Regional Power Trade in the Greater Mekong Subregion and Southeast Asia (\$3.9 million, Proposed TA for approval in 2024)

The technical assistance (TA) aims to support the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries in accelerating their energy transition and enhancing regional power grid and market integration under the ASEAN Power Grid (APG) initiative. This would promote higher penetration of clean energy while providing affordable and reliable electricity.

X The ASEAN Power Grid (APG) is an initiative to construct a regional power
interconnection to connect the region, first on cross-border bilateral terms,
and expand to sub-regional basis, subsequently leading to a total integrated
Southeast Asia power grid system.

The TA will (i) update the ASEAN interconnection master plan study and APG project pipeline, (ii) design the APG financing facility and assess opportunities for APG-related projects and renewable energy investment, (iii) improve capacities for multilateral power trade and regional power market; and (iv) **strengthen regional cooperation** to accelerate energy transition.

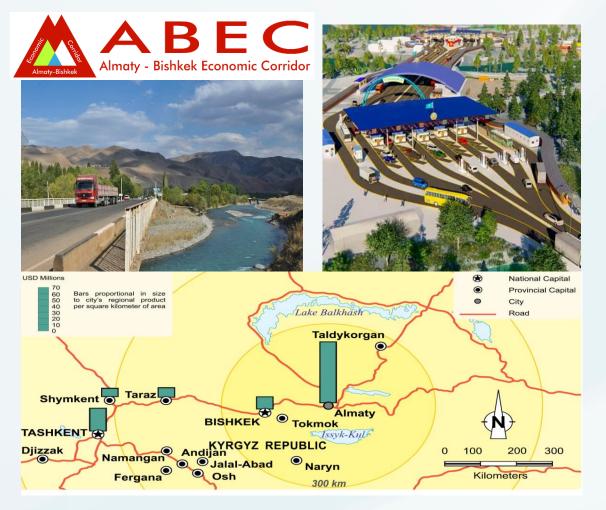






Project Examples

Economic Corridor Development



Almaty-Bishkek Economic Corridor Regional Improvement of Border Services Project

(Proposed project for May 2025, ADB Financing of \$35 million)

- The project was conceptualized around the modern one-stop process of border control, enabled by non-intrusive inspection technologies (mobile passport scanners, Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR), mobile x-ray control equipment, etc) and Risk Management Systems.
- The facilities will rely on green power supplied by solar panels and accumulated by electrical batteries.
- It will reduce GHG emissions and air pollution.
- The project addresses one lingering issue in international trade: the gender blindness of **border crossing points (BCPs)**. This innovative project will demonstrate that BCPs can be women-friendly. This is the first project to engage with the Border Service, and by creating a gender-responsive environment and programs Border Service can provide better protection against human trafficking and create favorable conditions for female entrepreneurs.







Conclusions





Conclusions

- RCI is a Charter Mandate being carried out through 3 interrelated roles: honest broker, knowledge provider and capacity builder, and mobilizer of project financing.
- Wider, Deeper, and More Open RCI is needed for an inclusive, sustainable, and resilient recovery: OP7 pillars require strengthening.
- ADB will continue providing adequate financial and human resources to foster RCI.





Thank you!

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Annex





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ADB's Roles in RCI Platforms



Honest Broker

- Secretariat
- Convening Role & Policy Dialogue











Knowledge Provider and Capacity Builder

Advocacy for RCI in global fora











Mobilizer of Project Financing

CAREC: 276 projects amounting to \$51 B with ADB financing of \$17.6 B from 2001 – 2023 GMS: 124 projects amounting to \$29.95 B with ADB financing of \$14.11 B from 1994 – 2023

SASEC: 86 projects amounting to \$20.54 B with ADB financing of \$12.63 B from 2001 – 2023





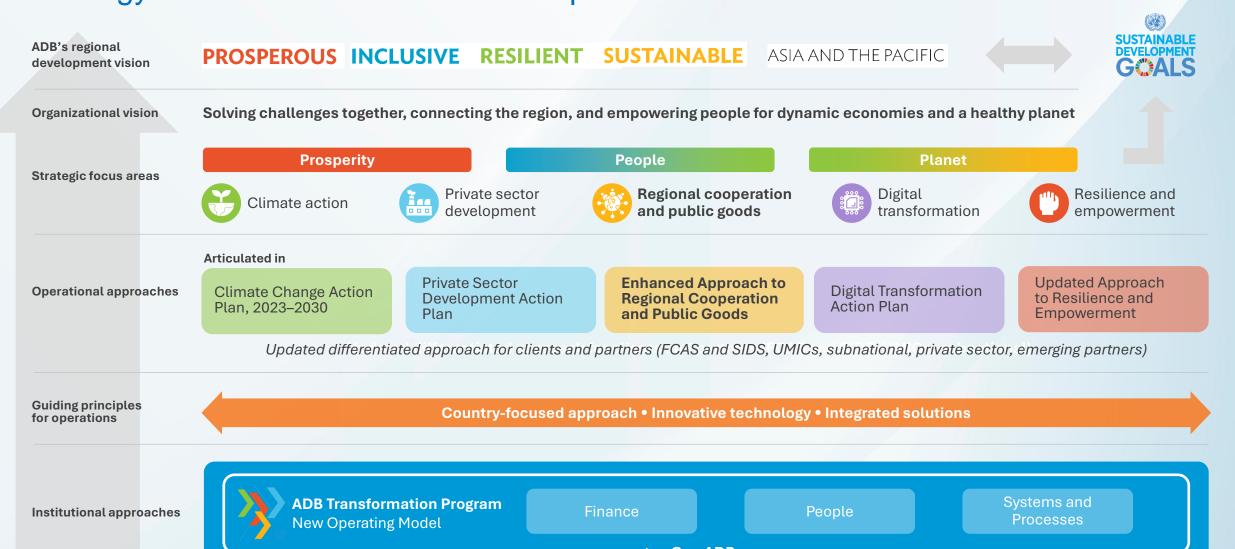


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ADB

Strategy 2030 Midterm Review: A Snapshot









ADB's Climate Change Action Plan, 2023–2030 (CCAP)



Setting the scene

Global and regional context

ADB's climate ambitions and commitments

CCAP objectives

How we operate

Partnerships
Climate investment
and impact

Knowledge

How we engage

Upstream Midstream

Downstream

List of actions

Sector-specific actions

How we deliver

Integrated climatesmart planning and technology

Inclusive and climatesmart socioeconomic development

Climate-smart Infrastructure

Biodiversity, agrifood systems, nature-based climate solutions

Green and blue finance

How we improve

Arrangements Monitoring

> For more: Five Things to Know About ADB's Climate Change Action Plan







ADB RCI Portfolio 2019-2024

