

AGENDA Regional Forum 2024 Successful Project Design and Implementation

The Regional Forum on Successful Project Design and Implementation (SPDI) is a gathering of developing member countries' policy makers, practitioners, and project implementers for solution-seeking discussions, training and knowledge sharing sessions to improve project management processes and results in ADB-supported projects.

The theme of 2024 SPDI is *Strengthening Project Quality through Enhanced Readiness, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation*. The event brings together executing agencies and implementing agencies across the Central and West Asia region from 22–24 January 2024 in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Organized through One ADB Approach

The event is organized using OneADB approach and is co-led by Operations and Coordination Unit, Central and West Asia Regional Department and the Procurement, Portfolio and Financial Management Department (PPFD), in collaboration with the Pakistan Resident Mission Capacity Development Resource Center.

The 2024 SPDI is funded by ADB's Regional technical assistance RETA 9692: Enhancing Project Readiness and Implementation in Central and West Asia and KSTA 9765: Strengthening Project Design, Procurement, and Implementation in Asia and the Pacific.

For any information about the event, please contact Shaista Hussain shussain@adb.org and Sevil Maharramova smaharramova@adb.org



Day 1 22 January 2024 | Monday

8:00 a.m. **Registration**

9:00 a.m. **OPENING SESSION**

Welcome Remarks

Ms. Xiaohong Yang, Deputy Director General, Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Opening Remarks

Mr. Rehan Kausar, Director, Portfolio Management Division, Procurement, Portfolio, and Financial Management Department (PPFD), ADB

Mr. Yong Ye, Country Director, Pakistan Resident Mission (PRM), ADB

Keynote Address

Ms. Samar Ehsan Baig, Joint Secretary, Economic Affairs Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of Pakistan

9:30 a.m. **Group Photo**

9:40 a.m. **SESSION 1: PROJECT CYCLE and READINESS**

This session provides insights into the ADB project cycle, discussing the use of project readiness filters and advance actions during project preparation and how these support successful project implementation and overall strengthening of development results and DMC's institutions.

Speakers:

Ms. Shaista Hussain, Principal Results Management Specialist, Operations Coordination Unit, CWRD, ADB

Mr. Anders Pettersson, Principal Portfolio Management Specialist, Operations Coordination Unit, CWRD, ADB

10:00 a.m. **Tea/Coffee Break**

10:15 a.m. **SESSION 2: IMPROVING PROJECTS QUALITY at ENTRY**

Plenary Panel Session: Strengthening Project Quality and Enhancing Project Readiness Experience in Pakistan

This session focuses on the good practice from across ADB, with special feature on Government of Pakistan's project readiness measures that include essential transactional tasks, project ownership, planning to achieve desired outcomes, and selection of the best possible approaches to attain sustainable project impact.

Panelists:

Ms. Sarah Rehman, Chief Foreign Aid, KP, Government of Pakistan

Ms. Nazish Amjad, Deputy Secretary, Economics Affairs Division, Government of Pakistan

Mr. Rehan Kausar, Director, Portfolio Management Division, PPFD, ADB



Facilitator:

Mr. Dinesh Shiwakoti, Unit Head, Project Administration, Pakistan Resident Mission, ADB

10:45 a.m.

Case studies: Improving Projects Quality at Entry: Pakistan (PRF), Uzbekistan (PRF) and Kyrgyz Republic (SEFF)

This session demonstrates how a ‘readiness checklist’ for projects under preparation helps achieve the expected project key results through improved quality of projects at entry. A case study on the Project Readiness Criteria adopted by the Government of Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyz Republic helps participants understand how the filters work, how critical they are for sound project preparation, and how these best practices may be replicated by other DMCs for ADB funded projects.

Speakers:

PAKISTAN:

Mr. Muhammad Hamza Salick, Project/Program Director (PICIP), (PUDP) & (DREAMS), Government of Pakistan

Mr. Asad Aleem, Country Operations Head, Pakistan Resident Mission, ADB

UZBEKISTAN:

Mr. Bobur Khamraev, Projects Coordination Unit Head, JSC Uzsvta’minot, Uzbekistan

Ms. Nilufar Nurkuzieva, Senior Portfolio Management Officer, Uzbekistan Resident Mission, ADB

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC:

Ms. Dilbara Omorova, Financial Manager, Water Resources Service under the Ministry of Agriculture, Kyrgyz Republic

Mr. Cesar Llorens, Unit Head, Project Administration, Kyrgyzstan Resident Mission, ADB

11:30 a.m.

Group Discussion / Q&A on Experience and Practices in Project Readiness

Following panel discussion and presentation of case studies, this is a summary session providing an opportunity to all participants to (i) Q&A with case studies’ presenters; (ii) share challenges, approaches and solutions in strengthening project design and application of readiness filters; and (iii) prepare and identify issues/areas for discussions during the rest of the forum (sector discussions and preparation of country presentations).

Facilitators:

Session: Mr. Anders Petterson, Principal Portfolio Management Specialist, Operations Coordination Unit, CWRD, ADB

Each group: CWRD COH/PAU Heads (per each table)

12:00 p.m.

Lunch

1:30 p.m.

FEEDBACK in Plenary from Table Discussions on Experience and Practices in Project Readiness

Facilitator:

Mr. Anders Petterson, Principal Portfolio Management Specialist, Operations and Coordination Unit, CWRD, ADB



2:15 p.m. **Tea/Coffee Break**

2:30 p.m. **SESSION 3: CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION**

Asia and the Pacific is the frontline in the battle against climate change. ADB is helping developing countries shift to low-carbon growth and protect those most vulnerable against the expected impacts of climate change. This session focuses on exploring regional experience, key challenges as well as solutions for climate change in implementing ADB financed projects. The session will also lay the importance of embedding climate change mitigation and adaptation aspects.

Speaker:

Mr. Nathan Rive, Senior Climate Change Specialist, Climate Change, Resilience, and Environment Cluster, ADB

3:00 p.m. **SESSION 4a: ENVIRONMENTAL and SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS**

This session discusses the importance of environmental and social safeguards as integral to good project design and implementation, especially in avoiding impacts, minimizing delays, engaging with stakeholders, and improving development outcomes. The session focuses on exploring regional experience, key challenges as well as solutions in implementing ADB financed projects.

Speakers:

Mr. Jose Tiburcio Nicolas, Principal Social Development Specialist (Safeguards), Office of Social Safeguards, ADB

Mr. Syed Asim Sabzwari, Environment Specialist, Office of Safeguards, ADB

4:00 p.m. **SESSION 4b: GENDER**

This session discusses the importance of gender mainstreaming as integral to good project design and implementation, especially in engaging with communities, stakeholders, and improving equal development outcomes. The session focuses on exploring regional and local experiences, key challenges as well as solutions with regards to gender mainstreaming in ADB financed projects.

Speakers:

Ms. Mary Alice G. Rosero, Senior Social Development Specialist (Gender and Development), ADB

Ms. Samina Sabir, Gender Officer, PRM, ADB

4:45 p.m. **Wrap-up and Reminders**

Ms. Sevil Maharramova, Senior Portfolio Management Specialist, Portfolio Management Division, PPF, ADB

4:55 p.m. **End of Day 1 Session**

5:00 p.m. **Welcome Reception and Networking event for all Forum participants and senior officials from Government of Pakistan**

– 6:30 p.m. Venue: Marquee Courtyard

End of Day 1



Day 2 23 January 2024 | Tuesday

8:00 a.m. **Registration**

8:30 a.m. **SESSION 5: PROCUREMENT**

This session highlights the measures taken to achieve procurement readiness, such as the preparation of detailed engineering designs and advanced contracting as well as the financing requirements and institutional arrangements that contribute to project readiness.

Speaker:

Mr. Bisma Husen, Principal Procurement Specialist, Procurement Division 1, PPF, ADB
Mr. Mohsen Khan, Senior Procurement Officer, PRM, ADB

10:00 a.m. **Tea/Coffee Break**

10:15 a.m. **SESSION 6: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (FM)**

This session defines FM project design requirements, shared responsibilities, financial due diligence processes, FM risks and mitigating measures and readiness criteria and examines common issues and challenges in project implementation in Central and West Asia countries. The session analyzes how public financial management (PFM) systems and institutions, staff capacity of executing and implementing agencies, and efficiency of FM arrangements in projects play a part in project readiness and enhance project implementation.

Speakers:

Ms. Oksana Nazmieva, Principal Financial Management Specialist, Public Financial Management Division (PFFM), PPF, ADB
Mr. Musaddiq I. Shaikh, Financial Management Officer, PFFM, PPF, ADB

12:00 p.m. **Lunch**

1:30 p.m. **SESSION 7: LEARNING FROM EVALUATION - INSTITUTIONAL READINESS SUPPORTING PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

This session is a stage setting session. It emphasizes the value of using evaluation lessons and findings to improve project performance and strengthen accountability and learning. Using examples of project implementation challenges across sectors in Central and West Asian countries, the session identifies the factors that affect overall project performance at (i) regional; (ii) DMC and (iii) sector levels with focus on the role of strong institutions.

The session then becomes a foundation for subsequent deep dive discussions (sector and country levels) that demonstrate the benefits of learning from evaluation.

Speaker:

Mr. Arjun Guha, Evaluation Specialist, Independent Evaluation Department, ADB



2:15 p.m.

SESSION 8: MONITORING DURING PROJECT DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

This session discusses effective project monitoring during design and implementation for improved developmental results.

Speakers:

Ms. Shaista Hussain, Principal Results Management Specialist, Operations Coordination Unit, CWRD, ADB
Mr. Anders Pettersson, Principal Portfolio Management Specialist, Operations Coordination Unit, CWRD, ADB

2:45 p.m.

Tea/Coffee Break

3:00 p.m.

Project Specific Discussion: Project Monitoring & Management in DMCs

Examples of different constraints or issues encountered during project implementation/ monitoring and other factors and how were transformed to management action.

Speakers:

Open house – DMC speakers invited to share insights.

Facilitator:

Ms. Shaista Hussain, Principal Results Management Specialist, Operations Coordination Unit, CWRD, ADB

3:30 p.m.

SESSION 9: ADB's Anticorruption and Accountability Framework

ADB's Office of Anticorruption and Integrity will present data on projects, discuss integrity risk mitigation, share a case investigated by OAI through interactive discussion, and respond to participants' questions on integrity-related matters.

Speakers:

Mr. Steven Wong, Integrity Specialist, Office of Anticorruption and Integrity (OAI), ADB
Ms. Frances Lynette V. Sayson, Senior Integrity Officer, OAI, ADB

4:30 p.m.

Spotlight Feature: Pakistan's Capacity Development Resource Center

Mr. Dinesh Shiwakoti, Unit Head, Project Administration, PRM, ADB

4:45 p.m.

Wrap up and Reminders

Ms. Sevil Maharramova, Senior Portfolio Management Specialist, PFPM, ADB

4:55 p.m.

End of Day 2



Day 3 24 January 2024 | Wednesday

8:00 a.m. **Registration**

8:30 a.m. **GROUP DISCUSSION BY SECTOR: PROJECT READINESS FOR ENHANCING SECTORS DEVELOPMENT**

Country representatives share best practices, success stories, innovations, and project readiness challenges specific for a sector. Group discussions allow participants to delve into specific aspects of their project's readiness, design, and implementation, addressing bottlenecks and proposing solutions for improved transaction, coordination, and implementation mechanisms to enhance project delivery. The sector and theme specialist also share best practices on procurement, FM, environment and social, etc.

GROUP 1: TRANSPORT	GROUP 2: ENERGY	GROUP 3: Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development	GROUP 4: Human and Social Development
<p><u>Facilitators:</u> Mr. Masahiro Nishimura, Principal Rural Development Specialist, Sectors Group (SG), ADB</p> <p>Mr. Khurram Ghafoor, Senior Project Officer (Infrastructure), PRM, ADB</p>	<p><u>Facilitator:</u> Ms. Catherine B. Santiago Unit Head Portfolio Management, SG, ADB</p>	<p><u>Facilitators:</u> Ms. Manjula Amerasinghe, Unit Head Portfolio Management, SG, ADB</p> <p>Mr. Asad Ali. Zafar, Senior Project Officer (Water Resources), PRM, ADB</p>	<p><u>Facilitators:</u> Mr. Aziz Haydarov, Unit Head, Project Administration, SG, ADB</p> <p>Mr. Omer Bin Zia, Senior Project Officer (Social Sector) PRM, ADB</p>
<p>Summary introduction to sector specifics by Facilitator One sector project case presentation by DMCs Group discussion on sector challenges and solutions</p>			

9:30 a.m. **GROUP DISCUSSION IN PLENARY BY SECTOR GROUP:
Feedback Session**

10:10 a.m. **Tea/Coffee Break**



10:25 a.m.

ACTIONS to STRENGTHENING PROJECT QUALITY: Preparation of Country Presentations

Country delegates will discuss and prepare a presentation summarizing key forum takeaways, country-specific challenges and opportunities for improvement, references for application, and next steps.

Facilitators:

Country COH/ PAU Heads, CWRD, ADB

12:00 p.m.

Lunch

1:30 p.m.

STRENGTHENING PROJECT QUALITY: Country Presentations

3:30 p.m.

Tea/Coffee Break

3:45 p.m.

SESSION 10: CAPACITY STRENGTHENING and KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE for BETTER RESULTS

This recap session focuses on using knowledge and lessons learned from the Forum to strengthen project readiness, design, implementation, and monitoring; importance of commitments and accountability from DMC EA/IAs.

Speakers:

Mr. Rehan Kausar, Director, Portfolio Management Division, PPF, ADB

Mr. Khurram Amin - Additional Secretary (Technical) Punjab Irrigation Department, Government of Pakistan

Facilitator:

Ms. Sevil Maharramova, Senior Portfolio Management Specialist, PPF, ADB

4:15 p.m.

Post-Workshop Evaluation Survey

Facilitator:

Anna Belinda Casiano

4:25 p.m.

CLOSING REMARKS

Mr. Jesper Klindt Petersen, Regional Head, Operations Coordination, CWRD, ADB

Mr. Yong Ye, Country Director, Pakistan Resident Mission, ADB

4:35 p.m.

Wrap up and Distribution of Certificates

End of the Forum

