

Regional Forum on Successful Project Design and Implementation

7 – 9 July 2026 | Astana, Kazakhstan



AGENDA

Day 1: 7 July 2026

8:30 a.m. **Registration**

OPENING SESSION

Opening Remarks

9:00 a.m. **Guoliang Wu, Director**, Portfolio Management Division, ADB
Balabhaskara Reddy Bathula, Regional Head, Operations Coordination, ADB

Keynote Address

Ministry of National Economy, Government of Kazakhstan

GROUP PHOTO

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION:

Stage Setting: *Why Risk Management Matters in Development Projects*

9:30 a.m. *This session highlights the importance of risk management in development projects, showing how early integration and proactive planning can strengthen projects' readiness, resilience and accountability and contribute to sustainable outcomes. It also introduces the Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan (RAMP) tool, outlining its structure and significance for project design, monitoring, and adaptation.*

Speaker

Guoliang Wu, Director, Portfolio Management Division, ADB

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

PANEL SESSION:

Beyond the Data: Bridging the Gap Between Risk Management Design and Practice

10:30 a.m. *This panel session examines why recurring risk patterns persist despite the availability of established frameworks, guidance, and training. Bringing together institutional leadership, regional portfolio managers from two MDBs, and experienced project implementers, the discussion will explore the gap between risk management as designed and as practiced—highlighting institutional, operational, and behavioral factors that limit effective risk identification, monitoring, and response.*

Panelists

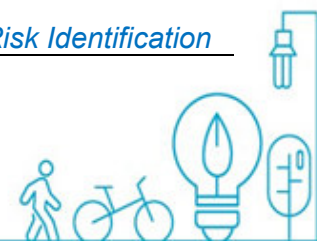
Guoliang Wu, Director, Portfolio Management Division, ADB
Balabhaskara Reddy Bathula, Regional Head, Operations Coordination, ADB
Indu John-Abraham, Operations Manager for Central Asia, World Bank
Ganzorig Bulgankhuu, Head, Development Financing Division, MOF, Government of Mongolia

Moderator

Sevil Maharramova, Principal Portfolio Management Specialist, ADB

11:45 a.m. **PRESENTATION:**

Enhancing Project Readiness and Quality at Entry through Effective Risk Identification



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This session will explore key principles of initial project risk assessment, the role of robust due diligence in identifying risks and designing mitigation measures, and how effective risk assessment can strengthen project readiness and quality at entry.

Speaker

Mirzo Iskandar Gulamov, Country Operations Head, Uzbekistan Resident Mission, ADB

12:20 p.m. **Lunch**

PANEL SESSION:

Strengthening Project Implementation Through Cross-Functional Risk Management

Early and coordinated risk management is essential for successful project implementation. This session brings together perspectives from financial management, procurement, and safeguards to discuss how cross functional collaboration, integrated risk registers, and early warning systems can support more effective decision making and stronger results.

1:30 p.m.

Panelists

Elbek Yusupov, Financial Management Specialist, ADB

Jamshid Umarov, Senior Procurement Officer, ADB

Sophio Omanadze, Safeguards Specialist (Social), ADB

Moderator

Rhodora Concepcion, Country Operations Head, Tajikistan Resident Mission, ADB

3:30 p.m. **Tea/Coffee Break**

CASE STUDIES:

Risk Management in Action: Lessons from Successful Project Implementation Practices

This session demonstrates what effective risk management looks like in practice, highlighting proactive identification, continuous monitoring, and adaptive response. It focuses on extracting replicable good practices.

3:50 p.m.

Speakers

Hou Beilei, Guangxi Administration Center of Foreign Funded Projects for Agriculture, the PRC

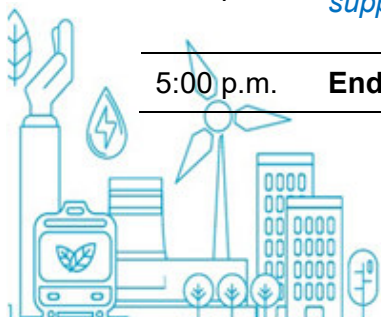
Ding Tao, Xi'an Education Bureau, the PRC

Sajida Ayaz, Chief Foreign Aid, Planning and Development Department, Government of Sindh, Pakistan

WRAP-UP

4:50 p.m. *What's working and what's missing in our current risk management practices to support successful project implementation?*

5:00 p.m. **End of Day 1**



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5:30 p.m. **Welcome Reception and Networking Event for all Forum Participants**

Day 2: 8 July 2026

CASE STUDY:

Risk Management in Action: What can go wrong if Risks are not Managed Well

9:00 a.m.

This session translates the evidence and insights from the preceding discussions into a practical illustration of how risk management failures materialize during implementation. It demonstrates the real consequences of weak risk identification, poor monitoring, and lack of ownership of mitigation measures.

Speakers

Anders Pettersson, Country Operations Head, Georgia Resident Mission, ADB

Chandra Mohan Arora, Country Operations Head, Mongolia Resident Mission, ADB

10:50 a.m. **Tea/Coffee Break**

PRESENTATION:

Guiding Risk-Informed Implementation – ADB's experience in the road sector of Kazakhstan

11:00 a.m.

The session will highlight the importance of proactive and continuous risk management throughout project implementation. It will showcase good practices in applying project management tools, including the use of project rating system to support effective monitoring and decision-making.

Speaker

Alibek Abdrakhmanov, Country Operations Head, Kazakhstan Resident Mission, ADB

PRESENTATION:

Regional Cooperation and Integration in Practice: Insights from Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program

11:45 a.m.

This session focuses on what regional cooperation means at the project level and how cross-border projects are structured to support policy dialogue on regional connectivity. Drawing on CAREC experience, it highlights how aligned approaches to readiness and risk management across DMCs can improve coordination, reduce implementation challenges, and strengthen development results and impact.

Speaker

Roman Mogilevskii, Senior Regional Cooperation Economist, ADB

12:30 p.m. **Lunch**

2:00 p.m.

BREAKOUT SESSION:
Sector Risks in Focus



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Participants will join sector-specific groups to discuss approach to assessment, monitoring and management of specific design/technical and institutional risks, cross-cutting issues, and mitigation strategies.

Moderators:

Group 1 Energy: **Serik S. Zharkinbayev**, Energy Specialist

Group 2 Transport: **Hiroki Katayama**, Senior Operations Specialist

Group 3 WUD: **Baochang Zheng**, Principal Project Management Officer

Group 4 HSD: **Wahyu Wijayanto**, Project Administration Unit Head

Group 5 AFNR: **Kazuhiro Yoshida**, Senior Water Resources Specialist

3:30 p.m. **Tea/Coffee Break**

4:00 p.m. **Sector Risks in Focus (continued) – Feedback from the sector group discussions**
Each group will summarize the key discussion points, including major issues and effective risk management practices. They will also nominate one participant to present these insights to the broader audience and respond to any questions.

5:30 p.m. **Wrap up and Reminders**

5:40 p.m. **End of Day 2**

Day 3: 9 July 2026

PRESENTATION:

From Lessons to Practice: Forum Insights and the Rollout of GRIP

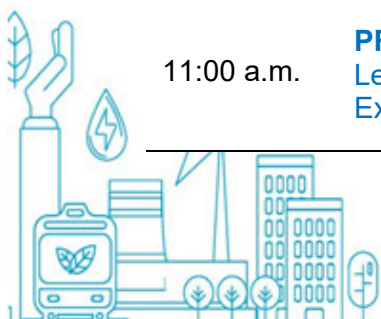
9:00 a.m. *This session will summarize key discussions from the forum and reinforce the importance of proactive risk management across all stages of the project lifecycle. It will highlight the value of systematically capturing and sharing lessons learned at project completion to support effective knowledge generation and experience exchange.*
The session will also introduce the Guide for Risk Identification and Planning (GRIP) knowledge product.

Speakers

Sevil Maharramova, Principal Portfolio Management Specialist, ADB

10:30 a.m. **Tea/Coffee Break**

11:00 a.m. **PRESENTATION:**
Leveraging Cost-Recovery Technical Assistance for Peer Learning and Knowledge Exchange



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This session will showcase a practical example of knowledge creation through cost-recovery technical assistance mechanisms in Kazakhstan and the PRC, designed to facilitate peer learning and hands-on knowledge exchange. It will highlight initiatives such as the Knowledge and Experience Exchange Program (KEEP) in Kazakhstan and demonstrate how these support risk management and strengthening institutional capacity through lessons learned.

Speakers

Genadiy Rau, Senior Economics Officer, ADB

Yun Zhou, Country Operations Head, PRC, ADB

12:30 p.m. **Lunch**

COUNTRY ACTION PLANS DISCUSSION and REFLECTIONS

2:00 p.m. *Country teams will reflect on key insights, define commitments for applying lessons learned, and propose improvements to their own risk management practices focusing on priority risks, institutional gaps, capacity-building needs, and steps for embedding risk management into project pipelines.*

Each country group will prepare and submit their presentations (slides or summary) at the end of this session.

3:00 p.m. **Tea/Coffee Break**

3:20 p.m. **COUNTRY TEAMS REFLECTIONS**

Country teams will briefly share their reflections from the forum and key highlights of their plans.

Post-forum Evaluation

Closing Remarks

4:40 p.m. **Guoliang Wu**, Director, Portfolio Management Division, ADB

Utsav Kumar, Country Director, Kazakhstan Resident Mission, ADB

Asan Darbayev, Vice Minister of National Economy, Government of Kazakhstan

Wrap-up and Distribution of Certificates

5:00 p.m. **End of the Forum**

