

Remarks
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Pursuing Partnerships to Deliver Better Knowledge Solutions

at the
Knowledge Partnership Week

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Good morning President Nakao, Ambassador Orr, Executive Director for Japan Koguchi, Vice President Groff, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen: good morning to all. It is my great pleasure to welcome you to ADB's first Knowledge Partnership Week.

1. WHY KNOWLEDGE PARTNERSHIPS?

From all viewpoints, partnerships make good sense. Partnerships will get—and keep—development projects on a more meaningful, productive path. They can provide the competitive edge to make things happen, and to make a difference where it really matters: in the cities and in the rural communities of Asia and the Pacific.

While ADB has a history of partnership, building stronger *knowledge* partnerships may help boost our ability to provide effective solutions for development challenges. So why are knowledge partnerships different? The difference is that these partnerships of individuals or organizations are forged to have the specific purpose of sharing knowledge, experience, resources, and connections.

I see ADB continuing to use its convening power to catalyze transformative innovations in our client countries. This is a key aspiration articulated in the recent medium-term review of ADB's long-term strategy.

To empower these transformations, we need to ensure ADB stays ahead of the curve in incubating, testing and launching path-breaking solutions to tackle inclusion and sustainability challenges. A key action is to forge knowledge partnerships with centers of excellence and the private sector.

2. WHAT THE WEEK PROMISES

Let's look at what will be happening this week. Knowledge Partnership Week aims to promote collaboration and build long-term relationships with strategic knowledge partners from whom ADB can tap innovations to improve the way it does business, now, and in the future. Knowledge solutions will be co-created to address the priority needs of ADB's developing member countries.

Ultimately, we would like to spark innovation in ADB's operations by strengthening knowledge partnerships with think tanks and private sector technology and solution providers.

The four-day Knowledge Partnership Week comprises the Partnership Forum with the Private Sector and the 3rd Asia Think Tank Summit. ADB has organized the week in coordination with the ADB Institute and the Lauder Institute of the University of Pennsylvania.

We are expecting the following five concrete outcomes from this Week:

- One: Potential candidates for knowledge partners from the private sector identified to provide innovative knowledge solutions for resilient and smart communities.
- Two: Expanded work plans developed with selected centers of excellence knowledge partners.
- Three: Flexible arrangements for more efficient collaboration with knowledge partners explored.
- Four: Two online communities introduced to provide information on existing and potential knowledge and private sector partners.
- And five: Collaboration explored with private sector research centers, centers of excellence, and think tanks outside the region based on priorities identified by ADB staff and DMCs.

3. PARTNERSHIP FORUM

I will now say a few words on the Partnership Forum, which begins today. This 2-day event will provide the venue for innovative cross-cutting solutions for resilient and smart community development. Here today are ADB client country officials—including high-level managers of executing agencies for ADB's projects, current and future—and private sector technology and solution providers.

Through these discussions, potential candidates for knowledge partnerships will be developed and then pursued after the forum if found relevant and mutually satisfactory to ADB, ADB members, and the technology providers. I wish you successful discussions.

4. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I want to share the following: Our developing member countries have told us that they want better knowledge solutions. I am increasingly optimistic about using knowledge partnerships to expand our knowledge base—as well as to boost our operations—through the unlimited possibilities presented by partnering with centers of excellence and the private sector.

Let us collectively help change how ADB does business and commit to solving development problems through knowledge partnerships.

Thank you.