



ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FAIR 2026

21-24 SEPTEMBER 2026 | ADB HEADQUARTERS, MANILA

VALUE FOR MONEY: DRIVING QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Digital Sector Office

Wednesday, 22 September 2026

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A mandate to scale digital transformation, 2026–2030

Board-endorsed direction (Digital Transformation for Development, 2026) and Management's delivery framework (Digital ADB: An Operational Approach, July 2026)

11%

of ADB's committed operations had digital components in 2023, the Corporate Results Framework baseline

45%

of ADB projects tagged digital transformation Level 1 or 2 by Q2 2026, up from 29% in 2025

\$20bn

Asia-Pacific Digital Highway by 2035

\$1.4bn

DIG-led sovereign operations planned for 2029, growing from \$158m in 2026

Three operational priority areas

Digital foundations

Connectivity, data infrastructure, policy and regulation, cybersecurity and privacy safeguards

DPI and platforms

Digital ID, payments, data exchange, digital skills, responsible use of AI

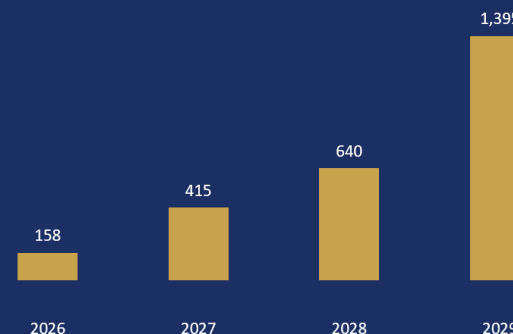
Sector outcomes

Public services, private sector and markets, climate resilience, regional public goods

The Digital Sector Office (DIG)

- Custodian of ADB's digital agenda with developing member countries: standards, diagnostics, knowledge, and the digital risk assessment of every digital operation
- Leads operations in digital and data infrastructure, core digital public infrastructure layers, cybersecurity and critical information infrastructure protection
- Co-leads and supports digital components with sector departments and with the Private Sector Operations Department for nonsovereign deals
- Leads ADB's engagement with technology providers for country operations

DIG-led sovereign operations, \$ million



\$541m

nonsovereign digital deals co-led with PSOD in 2026

2 platforms

Asia-Pacific Digital Highway and the Center for AI Innovation and Development



Digital Sector Office Approach

**Digitally Transformation for a
prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific**

DIGITAL USE CASES
Cross-sectoral digital operations in DMCs

Digital Solutions for Livable Cities, Countries and Data-driven Innovation
EduTech | AgriTech | HealthTech | Trade | Tourism | UrbanTech | Transport | Energy | Water | Justice | GovTech
| Social protection | Procurement | Banking and Finance | Disaster Response | Digital change management

DIGITAL ACCELERATORS
*Amplifying impact of digital technologies
for DMCs*

Digital Public Infrastructure
digital ID, digital payments, data exchange for
interoperability and integration

Digital Skills and Capabilities
Digital literacy and skills for workforce development

DIGITAL FOUNDATIONS
*Creating a strong base for DMC digital
transformation*

Digital and Data Infrastructure
Deployment and implementation of affordable, accessible, and high-quality networks and compute

Digital Policy and Regulation
Enabling frameworks to drive digital transformation

Digital Safeguards
Trusted and resilient digital systems and infrastructure

Cross cutting themes
Climate action | Private sector development | Regional cooperation and public goods | Resilience and empowerment



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Project summary Sri Lanka | Advancing Digital Transformation Project

DIG pillars

Digital and data infrastructure

Digital safeguards

Digital skills

Country

Sri Lanka

Project

Advancing Digital Transformation Project

ADB project number

59280-001

Modality

Sovereign sector loan

ADB financing

\$98.0 million, ordinary capital resources

Cofinancing and total cost

\$111.15. No cofinancing

Approval

Proposed. Fact-finding 16 April to 5 May 2026, Board approval to follow

Implementation period

2026-2031

Executing agency

Ministry of Digital Economy (MODE)

Implementing agencies

MODE, Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRCSL), GovTech Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka CERT, Data Protection Authority

Status

Proposed

DIG role

DIG-led operation

Impact

Impact: Inclusive and secure digital economy developed (National Digital Economy Blueprint)

Outcome: Inclusive and equal use of resilient and secure digital government services by women, underserved community members in rural and remote areas, and businesses increased

Results

Output 1: Foundational national digital and data infrastructure strengthened

Output 2: Institutional capacity building to support the digital economy developed

Proposed solutions

- Network services (TRCSL): spectrum management and monitoring system, quality-of-service and quality-of-experience management system, network enhancements at existing sites (LTE, 5G NR, fixed wireless) financed through subsidies and reverse auctions
- Data infrastructure (GovTech): secure government cloud platform and migration of government data and services to it
- Cybersecurity infrastructure (SLCERT): expansion of the National Cybersecurity Operations Centre, sectoral CSIRTs for education, security incident management across government, phishing prevention and a reporting platform for technology-facilitated gender-based violence

- Digital safeguards capacity: institutional capacity of the Data Protection Authority and SLCERT, a Cybersecurity Regulatory Authority, and legal, regulatory and policy work to build digital trust
- Whole-of-government digital capacity: GovTech Digital Academy, digital training modules, upgrades of existing government training centres, public awareness and literacy campaigns
- Project management and implementation support for MODE, TRCSL, SLCERT, GovTech and the Data Protection Authority. Civil works limited to fit-outs of existing buildings

Challenges

Challenges: The National Digital Economy Blueprint targets a \$15bn digital economy, \$5bn digital exports, a 200,000-strong digital workforce and transaction costs below 1% by 2030. Reaching them needs better network quality and access, secure and scalable hosting for government systems, stronger cyber incident response and institutional capacity for data protection and digital government.

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Project summary Uzbekistan | UPGRADE project

DIG pillars

Digital service delivery

Digital and data infrastructure

Digital skills

Country
Uzbekistan

Project
Unleashing Potential for Growth through Research and Advanced Digital Technology Excellence (UPGRADE) Project

ADB project number
E-059492-001

Modality
Project Lending

ADB financing
\$200 million

Cofinancing and total cost
No cofinancing. Government in-kind contribution in the form of duties and taxes estimated at \$24 million.

Approval
Planned Board approval on 3 December 2026

Implementation period
2027-2032

Executing agency
Ministry of Digital Technologies

Implementing agencies
IT Park Uzbekistan

Status
Processing

DIG role
DIG-led operation

Impact

Impact: Uzbekistan's transition to a knowledge-based and private sector-led economy through digital transformation, commercialization of innovation, and deep technology innovation accelerated.

Outcome: Advanced digital technology research, development, and innovation ecosystem strengthened, with increased women's participation and leadership.

Results

Output 1: Shared R&DB infrastructure, including AI computing resources and specialized laboratories, established and operated (\$120m)

Output 2: Specialized academic and training programs strengthened (\$30m)

Output 3: Commercialization, investment, and globalization support to accelerate startup scaling strengthened. (\$50M)

Context and engagement

- Establish the Digital Innovation and Artificial Intelligence Research, Development, and Business Center (DARC) as a flagship deep-tech innovation hub
- Develop Modular AI Computing Center (MACC) to provide shared AI compute resources to researchers
- Create six industry-focused laboratories covering AI applications, devices and hardware, AgriTech, HealthTech, FinTech, and Cybersecurity, alongside technology commercialization and certification hubs.
- Establish an Open Innovation and Startup Campus hosting startups and corporate innovation offices to encourage collaboration between academia, industry, and entrepreneurs.

- Upgrade university and innovation programs to produce a stronger pipeline of deep-tech researchers, engineers, entrepreneurs, and commercialization specialists.
- Support partnerships between universities, international research institutions, and industry to undertake applied research and product development.
- Establish a secure national data-access platform ("data dam") to provide researchers and innovators with controlled access to datasets for AI development.
- Deliver advanced AI engineering, industrial AI, and deep-tech skills programs

- Create structured pathways from research and prototypes to commercial products and scalable companies. Support startup formation through pre-incubation fellowships, acceleration programs, business advisory services, IP support, certification support, and company-building mechanisms.
- Establish an innovation-financing mechanism to mobilize private investment and de-risk deep-tech startups.
- Implement technology localization, government first-buyer programs, export promotion, diaspora engagement, and international market access support to help Uzbek startups scale globally.

Challenges

Challenges: The national digital ambition through the Digital Uzbekistan 2030 Strategy which sets national targets for digital government, data infrastructure, and skills, is facing the following challenges: rapid digital sector growth with limited depth; limited advanced computing and fragmented research infrastructure; shortage of advanced and specialized digital talent and entrenched disparities for women and other disadvantaged groups; and weak commercialization pathways and thin early-stage risk capital.



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Project summary Cambodia | BRIDGE Sector Development Program

DIG pillars

Digital public infrastructure

Digital safeguards

Digital skills

Country
Cambodia

Project
Building Resilience for Integrated Digital Governance and Efficiency (BRIDGE)

ADB project number
59358-001

Modality
Sector development program: programmatic policy-based loan plus investment loan

ADB financing
\$50.0 million

Cofinancing and total cost
FMRF with World Bank under discussion.

Approval
Expected 30 October 2026. Concept cleared 29 December 2025

Implementation period
2028–2032

Executing agency
Ministry of Economy and Finance

Implementing agencies
Techo Startup Center, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning, and Construction

Status
Proposed

DIG role
DIG-led

Impact

Impact: Government service delivery efficiency and citizen trust enhanced through inclusive, resilient and integrated digital transformation

Results

Output 1: CamDX and cybersecurity, data protection and data governance enhanced

Output 2: Digital skills, leadership and sectoral use cases expanded

Proposed solutions

- CamDX modernised with cloud-ready architecture, real-time data synchronisation and standardised APIs
- National Security Operations Centre, Network Operations Centre and digital forensics laboratory operationalised
- National cybersecurity standards and incident response mechanisms, including cyber resilience against technology-facilitated gender-based violence

- Ministry of Commerce National Digital Trade Hub: business registration, trade licensing, customs and e-payment with eKYC, eKYB and digital certificates of origin. Clearance time down 40%
- Ministry of Public Works and Transport: digitized waterways and bridge system
- Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning, and Construction: digitizing and integrating legacy land/title records, integrating provincial building and permit records, updating the national basemap/topographic map, and developing 3D building models for multi-story building management.

Challenges

Challenges: CamDX links 27 government entities and 47 private organisations at 95% uptime and 500,000 transactions a month, but its architecture, security and governance are not yet at whole-of-government scale. Only 20% of ministries have digital or data officers and women are 10% of ICT professionals. Targets by 2030: 99% uptime, transactions doubled, 30 ministries, SOC and NOC covering 60% of critical systems.

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Project summary Kyrgyz Republic | Digital Hub Development (Sanarip Ordo 02) Project – FMRF

DIG pillars

Digital and data infrastructure

Digital safeguards

Digital service delivery

Digital skills

Country

Kyrgyz Republic

Project

Digital Hub Development (Sanarip Ordo 02) Project-FMRF

ADB project number

E-060344-001

Modality

World Bank investment project financing (IDA) with ADB cofinancing, ADB leading

ADB financing

\$30.0 million

Cofinancing and total cost

World Bank \$50 million under the 2026–2028 IDA framework agreement (ratified July 2026). \$80 million in total

Approval

World Bank pipeline, ADB approval date to confirm

Implementation period

[to confirm]

Executing agency

Ministry of Economy and Commerce (TBC)

Implementing agencies

Kyzmat, State Agency for Data Protection, HTP, MOEC, other line ministries (TBC)

Status

Proposed

DIG role

DIG-lead

Impact

Impact: Inclusive, secure and AI-enabled digital transformation and digital economy participation strengthened

Outcome: Secure and resilient digital infrastructure strengthened, delivery of digital services improved, and competitive digital economy fostered

Results

Output 1: Resilient and secure digital and AI infrastructure expanded

Output 2: AI-ready data and data governance foundations enhanced

Output 3: Digital government, digital economy and digital skills supported

Proposed solutions

- 1.1 Extension of G-Cloud: G-Cloud and data center capacity expansion including disaster recovery and back-up data center, cloud marketplace and migration of priority systems, AI-ready power, cooling, equipment and high-performance computing
- 1.2 Cybersecurity: standards, procedures, tools and security audits, strengthening of the Cyber Security Operations Center

- 2.1 Legal, regulatory and governance framework: Digital Code implementation, AI-related laws and strategies, data governance mechanisms
- 2.2 AI-ready data: government-wide data inventory and classification, data cleansing and prioritisation, AI-ready data fabric and interoperability architecture, trusted data ecosystems for AI and machine learning

- 3.1 AI solutions for service delivery in selected priority sectors
- 3.2 G2B services through Tunduk and e-permits: service mapping, prioritisation, business process simplification, data sharing and integration
- 3.3 Digital industry and innovation: incentives, AI Innovation Program, young innovators and startups, VC pitch events
- 3.4 Digital skills: digital literacy, advanced skills, job-readiness training
- 3.5 Project management: PIU set-up and monitoring

Challenges

Challenges: G-Cloud and data center capacity is concentrated and limited, with disaster recovery, service continuity, power and cooling and AI-ready compute lacking. A weak regulatory and legal framework brings uncertainty to digital sector development while trusted data and responsible AI arrangements are still developing. Permits, licenses and approvals remain dispersed across agencies and paper-based, and skills, the High Technology Park, innovation and private sector linkages need scaling.

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Project summary Papua New Guinea | Digital Public Infrastructure for Inclusion, Governance and Transparency

DIG pillars

Digital public infrastructure

Digital policy and regulation

Digital skills

Country

Papua New Guinea

Project

PNG Digital Public Infrastructure for Inclusion, Governance and Transparency

ADB project number

To be assigned at concept clearance

Modality

Project loan, with a \$2.0 million TA grant (TASF or JFPR, subject to availability)

ADB financing

\$20.0 million (Output 1 \$8.0m, Output 2 \$5.0m, Output 3 \$3.5m, Output 4 \$2.0m, Output 5 \$1.5m)

Cofinancing and total cost

Concessional and blended terms with grant cofinancing under discussion. World Bank leads SPV transaction advisory, DFAT finances the connectivity blueprint

Approval

Concept clearance Q3 2026, fact-finding Q1 2027, negotiations Q2 2027, Board approval Q4 2027, effectiveness Q1 2028

Implementation period

Five years, 2028–2032. Completion report 2034

Executing agency

Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), with a dedicated PMU and a steering committee

Implementing agencies

DICT (lead). NICTA, NIDCIR, Bank of PNG, IRC, Treasury and DNPM engaged through the steering committee

Status

Concept note (internal)

DIG role

DIG-led, with CDPI, Co-Develop and Gates Foundation partnership

Impact

Impact: Inclusive digital economy where all citizens, including women, rural populations and the poor, can access financial services, government programs and economic opportunities through trusted digital identity infrastructure (PNG Vision 2050)

Outcome: A safe, inclusive and interoperable digital identity and trust infrastructure, anchored in the National Identification system and SevisPass, is adopted at scale by government agencies, financial institutions and telecommunications operators

Results

Output 1: Digital ID scale-up, interoperability and use cases deployed nationally

Output 2: Institutional capacity building and legal and regulatory foundations strengthened

Proposed solutions

- Output 1 (\$8.0m): biometric enrolment hardware through an agent network with banks and telecoms, SevisPass Tier 2 integration with NIDCIR and passport databases, SevisWallet with USSD and feature-phone fallback, NIDCIR cloud readiness, communications and digital literacy campaign
- Output 2 (\$5.0m): SevisDEX data exchange and API gateway, integration with three to four data custodian ministries, national public key infrastructure, plug-and-play sandbox for third-party testing
- Output 3 (\$3.5m): eKYC for bank account opening (BSP, Kina Bank, MiBank, Women's Micro Bank), SIM registration with NICTA and telecoms, SME registration with IRC, G2P and social protection payments with a viability gap funding window

- Output 4 (\$2.0m): Digital ID Act, data-sharing regulations, BPNG eKYC directive and SIM registration regulation, national Trust Framework, fully staffed PMU, PNG DPI Capability Hub, national DPI M&E dashboard disaggregated by gender, geography and income
- Output 5 (\$1.5m): project management, safeguards, gender action plan and contingencies
- Upstream TA 2026–2027: Digital ID Act drafting, institutional mandates (DICT, NIDCIR, NICTA, BPNG), cost-benefit analysis. Preconditions: Letter of Intent, legislative basis, credible PMU

Challenges

Challenges: Only 4 of 10 million citizens hold a national ID card, 2.1 million printed cards are undistributed and birth registration stands at 17%. SevisPass has about 3,000 self-enrolled users and no Digital ID Act, Trust Framework or NID linkage. Rural women are disproportionately excluded and smartphone penetration is 47%, so USSD and offline channels are essential. Overall risk rating: substantial.

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