

Regional Forum on Successful Project Design and Implementation

7 – 9 July 2026 | Astana, Kazakhstan



Opening Remarks by Mr. Balabhaskara Reddy Bathula Astana, Kazakhstan

Good morning, distinguished participants, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to join Guoliang to welcome you to Astana for this Regional Forum on Successful Project Design and Implementation, bringing together colleagues from East Asia and Central West Asia.

From a regional perspective, this workshop is particularly meaningful, as our two regions, despite their diverse development contexts, share common aspirations and many of the same implementation challenges.

Today, we operate in an increasingly complex environment, shaped by economic uncertainty, climate risks, evolving infrastructure needs, and rising expectations for delivering high-quality public services. In this context, successful development is determined not only by the quality of our investments, but equally by our ability to deliver them effectively. Sound project design, strong implementation, and proactive risk management throughout the project cycle are therefore no longer separate priorities—they are mutually reinforcing foundations for achieving sustainable development outcomes.

Recognizing this, ADB has strengthened its approach to risk management. Rather than responding to implementation issues after they arise, we are placing greater emphasis on anticipating risks early, enabling timely mitigation, and supporting more informed decision-making throughout implementation. During this workshop, my colleagues will share with you more details about ADB's enhanced project risk management approach, including the Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan (RAMP), which provides a more structured and forward-looking framework for managing implementation risks.

Yet frameworks and tools alone are not enough. Effective risk management ultimately depends on the quality of our institutions, the capacity of our project teams, and our willingness to learn from experience and continuously improve.

This is where the value of this workshop becomes particularly evident. Every project offers valuable lessons, and every implementation challenge presents an opportunity to improve. Just as importantly, the experiences of one country can often provide practical solutions for another.

Bringing together colleagues from East Asia and Central West Asia therefore creates a unique opportunity for cross-regional learning. By exchanging practical experiences across sectors and countries, we can identify solutions more quickly, avoid repeating common mistakes, and strengthen the quality of project delivery across our portfolios.

This spirit of collaboration reflects one of ADB's core strengths—not only as a financing institution, but also as a trusted platform for regional cooperation and knowledge sharing.



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By connecting practitioners across borders, we transform individual project experiences into collective regional knowledge, enabling better risk management, stronger portfolio performance, and ultimately greater development impact across our developing member countries.

Over the coming days, I encourage you to make full use of this opportunity. Engage actively in the discussions, share your experiences openly, and learn from your peers. The conversations during the breaks, the exchanges in the working sessions, and the professional networks you build here may prove just as valuable as the formal presentations.

With that, I wish you a productive and rewarding workshop, and I look forward to the engaging discussions over the coming days.

Thank you.

