



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
AND
THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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THE PACIFIC**

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) are two international organizations with mandates that:

- (a) focus exclusively on and cover the Asian and Pacific region;
- (b) support the economic and social development of the region; and
- (c) have a regional membership that, with very few exceptions, is identical.

2. It has been more than ten years since the original *Memorandum of Understanding between the Asian Development Bank and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific* was signed in April 1993. Since that time both the external environment in which the two organizations function as well as the two organizations themselves have evolved. Some of the significant changes that have taken place have included:

- (a) The International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, which have, amongst other things, called on the regional development banks and the UN's regional economic and social commissions to work closely together in the interests of international development;
- (b) ADB has been accorded an official Observer Status at the UN General Assembly and thereby at the UN Economic and Social Council of which UNESCAP is the operational arm in the Asian and Pacific region; and
- (c) Both ADB and UNESCAP have asserted their commitment to reduce poverty in the Asian and Pacific region and to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

3. Given these changes and the ten years of experience in cooperation since the signing of the original MOU in 1993, ADB and UNESCAP have concluded that there should be a new *Memorandum of Understanding* to supersede the one signed in 1993 that will reflect these and other significant changes.

I. INTRODUCTION

4. ADB and UNESCAP reaffirm their desire to work together in areas of mutual interest in the service of the developing countries of common membership. ADB and UNESCAP concur that this document with the title *Memorandum of Understanding between the Asian Development Bank and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (2004)*, referred to hereafter as MOU (2004), will supersede the MOU signed between the two organizations in 1993.

II. PURPOSE OF ADB-UNESCAP COOPERATION

5. As both ADB and UNESCAP have been established with mandates to support regional cooperation in the Asian and the Pacific region and both have poverty reduction as a primary goal, ADB and UNESCAP plan to work together:

- (a) to support poverty reduction at the regional and sub-regional levels in the Asian and the Pacific region; and
- (b) in support of other development goals, including achievement of the other Millennium Development Goals, to be considered and undertaken at the regional and sub-regional levels.

III. GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR ADB-UNESCAP COOPERATION

6. ADB and UNESCAP will be guided by the following general principles:

- (a) Country and, where relevant, regional ownership of sound development policies and programs are necessary to ensure sustainable development;
- (b) Long-term approaches to sustainable development are needed;
- (c) Full stakeholder participation should be encouraged, consistent with available resources; and
- (d) Development policies and programs should be results-oriented and built on transparent relationships between development assistance providers and beneficiary countries.

7. ADB and UNESCAP plan to:

- (a) focus on the shared strategic and operational priorities of the two organizations; and
- (b) use the comparative strength and advantages of each organization.

8. ADB and ESCAP further plan to:
- (a) share knowledge of lessons learned and evaluations of development in Asia and the Pacific;
 - (b) consult each other in policy dialogue at the regional and sub-regional levels and programming for regional and sub-regional activities, where feasible and appropriate;
 - (c) explore the potential of co-financing regional and sub-regional programs and projects; and
 - (d) exchange or second staff.

IV. FOCUS OF ADB-UNESCAP JOINT ACTIVITIES

9. It is envisaged that the focus of areas for joint activities may include those detailed in the Appendix to the MOU (2004), which may be amended from time to time with the mutual written consent of the two organizations.

V. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

10. ADB and UNESCAP recognize that effective cooperation depends on open, comprehensive and regular exchange of information at the institutional level. They agree to make appropriate arrangements to:

- (a) deposit copies of every publication and all public documents of each organization to the main library of the other organization to be maintained as reference documents; and
- (b) give notice, through information posted on the websites of each organization, of:
 - conferences, seminars and workshops being organized or sponsored;
 - regional, country, sector and thematic policy/strategy documents;
 - program and project approval documents; and
 - regional program, country program, sectoral, project and other evaluations.

VI. RECIPROCAL INVITATIONS

11. ADB and UNESCAP recognize that appropriate representation is important to emphasize their common interests, purpose and intentions as well as in substantive terms. They agree that :

- (a) reciprocal invitations will be extended to the other organization to attend the ADB Annual Meetings and the UNESCAP Annual Sessions; and
- (b) invitations to other meetings, conferences, seminars and workshops relevant to cooperation in the priority areas set out in the Appendix to the MOU (2004) will be sent where this is appropriate.

VII. PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS

12. ADB and UNESCAP recognize that it is important to convene periodic consultations to review what is being planned, what is being implemented, and what is being achieved in terms of results as well as to discuss new challenges, opportunities and problems. They agree to hold such consultations periodically as required and not less than once every two years.

VIII. RESPONSIBILITY CENTERS FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE MOU

13. ADB and UNESCAP agree to designate as focal points for the activities under this MOU:

- (a) for ADB: Director-General, Strategy and Policy Department (SPD)
- (b) for UNESCAP: Division Chief, Programme Management Division (PMD)

IX. PREPARATION, IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION OF JOINT WORK ACTIVITIES

14. ADB and UNESCAP will prepare:

- (a) a list of all current operational cooperation activities and status of implementation;
- (b) a list with a brief description of all planned cooperation activities for the next budget year; and
- (c) an indicative list of planned cooperation activities for two subsequent years.

15. ADB and UNESCAP agree that:

- (a) the appropriate program managers in ADB and UNESCAP will be responsible for the implementation of cooperation activities within their areas of responsibility;

- (b) the appropriate program managers will provide brief reports as necessary to ADB/SPD and UNESCAP/PMD on the status of implementation of all cooperation activities listed within their areas of responsibility;
- (c) ADB/SPD and UNESCAP/PMD will prepare a joint report periodically and as necessary on the status of implementation of the cooperation activities;
- (d) the responsible program managers will complete annual assessments of results achieved with the cooperation activities;
- (e) these assessments will be reviewed by ADB/SPD and UNESCAP/PMD in considering further cooperation activities; and
- (f) ADB/Operations Evaluation Department (OED) and UNESCAP/PMD will conduct a joint evaluation of the overall development impact of the ADB-UNESCAP cooperation as input into a joint mid-term review of the implementation of the MOU (2004).

X. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND USE OF INSTITUTIONAL EMBLEMS

16. ADB and UNESCAP recognize that the involvement of both organizations in joint cooperation activities needs to be publicized. They agree that:

- (a) there will be public acknowledgment of the role and contribution of each organization to cooperation projects in all public information documentation related to such cooperation; and
- (b) the use of emblems of each organization in documentation related to cooperation will be in accord with the current policies of each organization concerning such usage.

XI. TERM AND REVIEW OF THE MOU

17. The ADB and UNESCAP agree that:

- (a) the term of the MOU (2004) will be for the period 2004 to 2015 in parallel with the target date for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the term of ADB's Long-Term Strategic Framework;
- (b) a joint mid-term review will be carried out after five (5) years with any necessary amendments to the MOU (2004) at that time, taking into account ADB's Medium Term Strategy (2011–2015) and the equivalent strategic planning framework of UNESCAP.

XII. MISCELLANEOUS

18. The MOU (2004) will become effective on the date of the fixed signature hereto.
19. Any specific activities under this MOU shall be the subject of written agreement.
20. The MOU (2004) may be amended by mutual written consent of the parties.
21. The MOU (2004) can be terminated by either organization on six months notice in writing.
22. In line with the procedural nature of the provisions of this MOU, no provision herein shall be construed so as to any way interfere with ADB's and UNESCAP's independent decision-making autonomy with regard to their own respective affairs and operations.

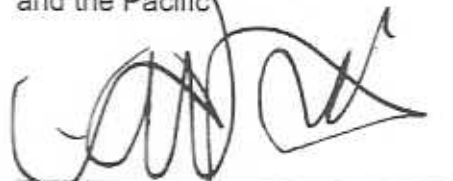
For the Asian Development Bank



Tadao Chino
President

16 May 2004
Jeju, Republic of Korea

For the United Nations Economic
and Social Commission for Asia
and the Pacific



Kim Hak-Su
Executive Secretary

16 May 2004
Jeju, Republic of Korea

APPENDIX (Revision 2, 17 February 2009)

PROPOSED AREAS FOR ADB-UNESCAP COOPERATION

1. Development of regional transport networks and facilitation
2. Disaster risk reduction
3. Energy
4. Environment (climate change and green growth)
5. Health and social protection
6. Knowledge management products and services
7. Statistics and development indicators
8. Trade
9. Urban/rural infrastructure