



Applying Technology in Support of Economic and Social Development in Asia Pacific

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a multilateral finance institution that promotes economic and social progress in the Asia Pacific region. It is owned by 67 member countries, including 48 from the region and 19 from outside. With the overall aim of reducing poverty in the region and improving the lives of citizens, the bank lends about US\$ 6 billion per annum and spends US\$ 180 million on technical assistance. It also promotes and facilitates investment of public and private capital for development and responds to requests for assistance in coordinating development policies.

The cooperation between ADB and Microsoft focuses on five strategic areas of common interest, including: innovation, ICT and governance, ICT and education, enabling jobs and opportunity, and regional integration and trade.

Education and Training

In the education sphere, Microsoft supports the activities of ADB's research and training division, the ADB Institute (ADBI) based in Tokyo, in particular through assisting to develop the content and structure of ADBI training programs.

ADB and Microsoft also collaborate to provide access to higher education content for adults through community technology centres and to provide content and delivery for teacher training. The partnership places particular emphasis on the needs of underserved communities.

ICT for Development

As a key to ADB's work and mandate, enabling development in Asia-Pacific is at the centre of the partnership. Both organisations will work together to extend the impact of their respective programs designed to support this goal. Microsoft is working on the development of the regional telecentre network to help leverage ICT for development best practices and knowledge sharing. ADB and Microsoft are also investigating how remittance and microfinance solutions can be implemented throughout the region and ways in which ICT can address infrastructure deficiencies in remote areas.

Other related projects focus on using ICT to facilitate free trade by reducing costs and processing requirements in customs and trade, offering support in the development of eGovernment to Asia Pacific countries and providing a structure for governments to cooperate on security activities.



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