The Challenge

Development Finance Institutions were set up by their local or national governments as specialized financial institutions providing long-term financing and technical assistance to industrial sectors, among others, in order to promote the country’s economic development and growth. However, environmental concerns have been a minor aspect for many years. DFIs in the Asia region have just started to consider inherent environmental issues of their financing projects.

DFIs play a central role in advancing the awareness and implementation of environmental issues in Asia. However, to be effective in performing this role in future, they have to continue the recently started process. Notably, the further development and implementation of environmental policies and practices are the key factors for financial institutions in supporting a sustainable development in the Asian region.

The Response

The proposed action intends to initiate an EU-Asia Environmental Governance Partnership Initiative and lead to the development and initial application of Environmental Governance Standards (EGS) for the DFIs. This partnership initiative will ensure a wide participation of DFIs in Asia in order to promote good corporate environmental policy and practices.

The Goals of the Conference

- Determine the current status quo of Environmental Governance (EG) reforms in DFIs;
- Promote best practices by showcasing innovative, comprehensive local initiatives to make DFIs more socially responsible by adhering to good corporate environmental poli;
- Offer practical information and tools focusing on how the member-DFIs in Asia can work together to develop a shared vision and action agenda for sustainability of the project;
- Use the expertise available at the conference to work on EG-related local issues and devise strategies that can be used by many DFIs around Asia to address similar problems;
- Raise awareness among member-DFIs and their respective senior executives about the continued need to fund and implement innovative initiatives for sustaining corporate Environmental Governance standards;
- Document and evaluate the progress of the DFI-initiated EG reforms and other multi-stakeholder processes in improving the quality of corporate environmental policy and practices; and
- Encourage collaboration among ADFIAP members committed to comprehensive approaches to sustaining corporate Environmental Governance standards at the institutional level.