

High-Level Technology Fund



Introduction

The High-Level Technology Fund (HLT Fund) is a multi-donor trust fund to promote the use of high-level technology into project development and implementation in Asia and the Pacific. It was established in May 2017 with Government of Japan as its first donor. As of May 2020, the HLT Fund has received \$55 million in total from the Government of Japan.

Since its establishment, the fund has supported diverse projects in different sectors in ADB developing member countries (DMCs). It provides grant financing for the integration of high-level technology into ADB-financed and administered sovereign and non-sovereign projects throughout the project cycle¹.

¹ ADB. *ADB Establishes Fund to Promote High-Level Technology - Japan First Donor*. <https://www.adb.org/news/adb-establishes-fund-promote-high-level-technology-japan-first-donor>.

Funded Projects

As of May 2020, the HLT Fund has approved a total of \$45 million to support ADB projects. About \$21 million are to support 12 Investment Projects, which are composed largely by sovereign loan projects, while \$21 million was earmarked for 23 Technical Assistance projects².

While the HLT Fund prioritizes the Energy, Transport, Urban, Water, and Health sectors, it also supports other areas (e.g. agriculture, education, finance, etc.).

Below images shows the distribution of approved projects from 2017 to 2019 by sector and region (implementing department).

Figure 1. Commitments by Sector 2017-2019 (\$'000)

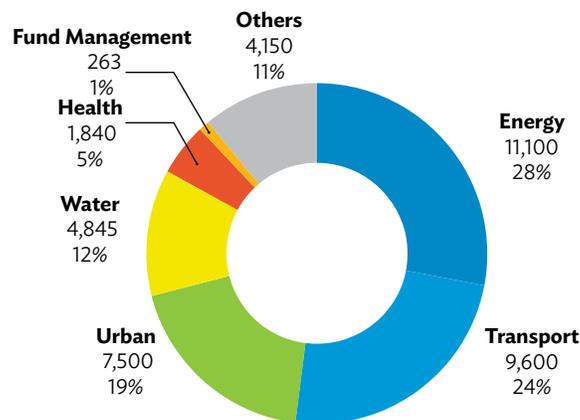
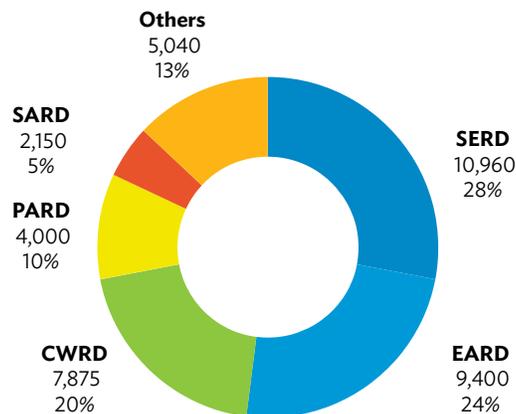


Figure 2. Commitments by Department 2017-2019 (\$'000)



CWRD = Central West Regional Department, EARD = East Asia Regional Department, PARD = Pacific Regional Department, SARD = South Asia Regional Department, SERD = Southeast Asia Regional Department.

² Rest is used for 21 Direct Charges hiring experts.

Examples³

1. Greater Malé Environmental Improvement and Waste Management Project (Maldives)⁴.

The Government of Maldives is learning best solid waste management practices from Japanese experts to improve Maldives' capacity in managing high-level technology for waste management.

High-Level Technology: Integrated solid waste management system including advanced waste-to-energy technology

Sector: Urban

Fund amount: \$1 million

2. Second Power Transmission Enhancement Investment Program Tranche 3 (Pakistan)⁵.

The HLT Fund is used for introducing the country's first large-scale Battery Energy Storage System located next to the wind power plants.

High-Level Technology: Battery energy storage system

Sector: Energy

Fund amount: \$4 million

3. Regional Road Development and Maintenance Project, Additional Financing (Mongolia)⁶.

Mongolia is implementing a new road safety management strategy for its regional road corridors. Measures include installing wire-rope median barriers that are low-cost and very effective to prevent head-on collisions in the busiest national highway section of Ulaanbaatar-Darkhan.

High-Level Technology: Wire-rope median barriers

Sector: Transport

Fund amount: \$1.5 million

3 For more information on funded projects, visit the HLT Fund website: <https://adbhltfund.adb.org/funded-projects>

4 ADB. 2018. *Maldives Learns Solid Waste Management Best Practices and High-Level Technology from Japan*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7RnEepPIGo>.

5 ADB. 2019. *First Grid-Connected Battery Storage System to Improve Clean Energy Access in Pakistan*. <https://development.asia/explainer/first-grid-connected-battery-storage-system-improve-clean-energy-access-pakistan>.

6 ADB. 2019. *Mongolia, ADB Sign Projects to Spur Trade, Improve Hospital Services, and Upgrade Roads*. <https://www.adb.org/news/mongolia-adb-sign-projects-spur-trade-improve-hospital-services-and-upgrade-roads>



4. South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Chittagong – Cox’s Bazar Railway Project (Bangladesh)⁷. The project aims to use sensor technologies to avoid accidents with elephants on railways in Bangladesh.

High-Level Technology: Sensor technology – thermal imaging cameras or geophones

Sector: Transport

Fund amount: \$500,000

5. Developing the Health Sector in the Pacific (Tonga)⁸. A digital platform will be developed to provide key health-related information especially to women and children in Tonga in the Pacific.

High-Level Technology: mHealth technology, interoperable health management information systems

Sector: Health

Fund amount: \$500,000

Collaboration with Private Sector

Private sector companies and organizations can participate in HLT Fund-financed projects through ADB procurement by providing their expertise as consultants or by providing the necessary equipment. All the tender information is available on ADB website.

Additionally, the HLT Fund is supporting more direct collaboration with the private sector through the Technology Innovation Challenge (TIC).

The Technology Innovation Challenge

The Technology Innovation Challenge is a program where ADB invites technology providers to propose a pilot where their technologies or solutions can address the development challenges DMCs face identified for the program by ADB. Upon thorough evaluation process, the successful proposals will receive max \$0.5 million grant each.

The proposed technologies have to be those already verified somewhere in the world, but something that may not be introduced yet in the selected context, country, or region. The applicants will be eligible for the downstream business opportunities that may arise, such as ADB investment projects, if the proposed technology is proven effective as a result of the grant.

The first TIC was announced in June 2019 targeting three Energy sector development challenges, with its call for proposals opened in October the same year. It is in the process of finalizing the grantees.

ADB plans to organize next TICs targeting other sectors, and its development challenges are expected to be announced around August 2020. We look forward to receiving the proposals in the next rounds of TIC as well. Please check our website for more details and updates on TIC: <https://adbhltfund.adb.org/challenge>.

Notes:

Figures are estimated by ADB, unless otherwise stated.

“\$” refers to United States dollars.

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Facebook : [Facebook.com/ADBHighTech](https://www.facebook.com/ADBHighTech)

⁷ ADB. Bangladesh: South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Chittagong-Cox’s Bazar Railway Project, Phase 1 – Tranche 1. <https://www.adb.org/projects/46452-003/main#project-documents>.

⁸ ADB. Regional: Developing the Health Sector in the Pacific. <https://www.adb.org/projects/52037-001/main#project-pds>.