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Ministry of Finance
Royal Government of Bhutan

Finance Minister attends the 59th Annual Meeting of Asian Development Bank in Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Lyonpo Lekey Dorji, Hon'ble Finance Minister and ADB Governor, led Bhutan's delegation to the 59th Annual Meeting of the Asian Development Bank, held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from 3-6 May 2026 under the theme "*Crossroads of Progress: Advancing the Region's Connected Future.*"

During the Governor's Business Session, Lyonpo delivered Bhutan's national statement, highlighting the country's development priorities, the 13th Five-Year Plan, and investment opportunities in the Gelephu Mindfulness City. Bhutan underscored key areas of cooperation for future programming under ADB's support.

On the sidelines of the meeting, Lyonpo held bilateral discussions with ADB President Mr. Kanda, the Vice Presidents (Sector and Themes; and South, Central and West Asia), and other senior officials to further strengthen cooperation between Bhutan and ADB. The discussions focused on infrastructure development, energy security, skills development, healthcare, and sustainable transport. Additional matters of mutual interest for the 2026-2029 programming period were also deliberated, seeking high-level management support of the ADB.



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Lyonpo also met informally with several finance ministers from member countries, including the Head of Delegation of the Government of India, exchanging views and reflections on ADB programming and national priorities.

Bhutan further engaged in bilateral discussions with the Vice President of NEDA, the UNDP Assistant Secretary-General, and other development partners to explore collaboration in sustainable and innovative financing, as well as climate-resilient investments.

The 59th Annual Meeting of the ADB brought together 4000+ delegates from 100 countries and serves as a key platform for dialogue on global and regional economic priorities, including green transformation, energy transition, digitalization, investment attraction, food security, and the resilience of industrial supply chains.