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## **Asia-Pacific: at the Forefront of Infrastructure Governance** *Regional roundtable series comes to Seoul*

**Seoul, Korea, May 23, 2019**—Good, accessible infrastructure is critical for managing Asia-Pacific’s rapid urbanization and strengthening productive value chains. For the most part, policymakers around the world have focused on improving access to finance as they address significant gaps in infrastructure services. Yet, in Asia, infrastructure governance is a key priority—partly explaining the region’s strong performance in private sector participation for infrastructure investments. This week, the World Bank, KIND, and Korea Eximbank host representatives from Asian governments, the private sector, multilateral institutions, and other development partners for the region’s first Regional Roundtable on Infrastructure Governance and Tools.

Strong governance bolsters governments’ ability to deliver the infrastructure their communities need. When governments are better able to identify, develop, and coordinate their infrastructure pipeline, project financing—both domestic and foreign—will flow. It is indisputably within the power of governments, the business community, and civil society to make this happen.

The roundtable will harness the region’s momentum on this issue with participation from over 140 delegates representing 40 countries in East and South Asia. The Asian Development Bank, Global Infrastructure Facility, Global Infrastructure Hub (GIH), KDI School, Open Contracting Partnership (OCP), OECD, and the Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility are sponsoring the event.

**Junglim Hahm, Senior Infrastructure Specialist** from the World Bank said, “*We estimate that Asian governments need to spend between 6.5 and 7.5 percent of GDP, including capital investment and maintenance, to achieve the infrastructure-related Sustainable Development Goals and stay on track to limit climate change to 2°C.*” She emphasized, “*Fundamentally, exactly how much infrastructure investment is needed depends on governments’ capacity to spend better—including through good governance that avoids white elephants, fraud, waste, and inefficiencies.*”

According to [InfraCompass](#), South Korea has one of the highest governance scores in the world, ranking alongside France, Singapore, Denmark, and the United Kingdom.

The roundtable follows directly from the [2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#) on financing for development. It also comes in response to the recommendations of the [2017 Global Infrastructure Forum](#), which emphasized strengthening investment capacity, policy, and governance frameworks while enhancing private-sector participation. While the first in Asia-Pacific, the event in Seoul is third of a series of roundtables about infrastructure governance organized around the world.

**The first session of the event will be livestreamed.**

For more information, please visit: [www.pppknowledgehub.org/infragovernance](http://www.pppknowledgehub.org/infragovernance).

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