



# ASIA AND THE PACIFIC FOOD SYSTEMS FORUM 2026

Feeding the Future, Sustaining the Planet

16–19 March, ADB Headquarters, Metro Manila, Philippines



ADB

## Guide for Self-Funded Participants

### Welcome!

ADB's [Food Systems Transformation Operational Approach](#) guides the delivery of ADB's [\\$26 billion](#) ambition from 2026-2030 to achieve food and nutrition security in the region, increase natural capital investments, promote agri-food value chain and related infrastructure, deliver digital solutions and enhance climate resilience. The [Asia and the Pacific Food Systems Forum 2026 \(#AFS2026\)](#) is the first event in an extended program of communication, training, and engagement to raise awareness amongst stakeholders, forge alignment amongst development partners and catalyze understanding and pipeline development between RM colleagues, country focals, and our DMC clients.

With the theme, "Feeding the Future, Sustaining the Planet," the four-day event will feature high-level plenaries, regional dialogues, partners roundtable discussions and bilateral meetings, technical sessions, and innovation showcases that highlight integrated approaches linking climate action, nature-positive solutions, food and water security, and rural revitalization. ADB's flagship programs—including Sustainable Rice Farming, Glaciers-to-Farms, Source-to-Sea resilient river basins, Mountains-to-Delta, Nutrition, and the Pacific Agri-Food Investment Platform—will be featured prominently, together with key partnership announcements and the launch of new regional initiatives. Emerging digital, data-driven, and AI-enabled solutions will also be spotlighted as scalable pathways to strengthen productivity and climate resilience.

### Program

With the theme ***"Feeding the Future, Sustaining the Planet," #AFS2026*** aims to:

- Identify priority issues, policies, and actions toward food systems transformation in the Asia and Pacific region, including reporting on the progress and performance of ADB's commitment to food systems transformation;
- Describe key challenges and solutions/innovations aligned with each operational approach pillar, including country initiatives;
- Highlight natural capital approaches linked to food systems transformation;
- Find out emerging areas in support of nutrition security for potential ADB investments; and
- Discuss measures to supplement and complement actions of key partners aligned with ADB's flagship initiatives in support of food systems transformation.

## Online Discussions

Participants, speakers, and guests of **#AFS2026** can join online discussions via Zoom (Zoom links to be sent via email to confirmed participants) and by posting your thoughts on Facebook, X (Twitter), and LinkedIn using the hashtag **#AFS2026**. Share your feedback, insights, and even after the Forum.

Visit the [#AFS2026 Website](#) regularly to read announcements and reminders from the Forum Secretariat.

## Travel Essentials

### 1. Venue and Facilities

The Forum will be held at the ADB Auditorium Halls 1–4 and additional venues at the first floor. Signages will be placed in the hallways. If in doubt, ask the Forum Secretariat.

Participants are also free to use the following ADB facilities during the Forum:

- ADB Staff Hub Level 1, Special Facilities Block
- Executive Dining Room Level 2, Special Facilities Block
- ADB Cashier Ground Floor, Office Tower Building
- Commercial Banks Ground Floor, Office Tower Building
- Travel Agents Ground Floor, Office Tower Building
- Library, Level 1, Office Tower Building
- Pharmacy, Ground floor, Special Facilities Block
- Personal Counter (for phone cards, Ground Floor, Office Tower Building, Courier services, etc.)
- Post Office, Ground Floor, Office Tower Building

For your guidance, here is the map of the ADB first floor. In case you need help, please ask ADB security personnel.

# ADB 1/F: Floor Plan for the Forum Venues



## 2. Registration and Forum Badge

**Online Registration.** Registration as onsite participants ended last 7 March, 11:59 p.m. (GMT+8, Manila Time). Starting 8 March 2024, participants can only join as virtual participants. Zoom details will be shared via email once they register using [this form](#). The deadline to register as a virtual participant is 16 March 2026 at 5:00 p.m. (Manila time).

**Access to ADB.** All registered participants must show a photo ID (e.g., passport or driver's license) and the confirmation email to get the Forum badge to enter the ADB premises. The badge will be valid from 16–19 March 2026. Attendees must always wear the Forum badge while inside ADB premises or when leaving and entering ADB.

The event ID badge is distinguished by color:

Color	For
Red	Speakers/ Organizers
Blue	DMC Participants
Purple	Exhibitor
Green	Open Registration Participants
Orange	Media
Gray	Supplier

**ADB Security.** For security reasons:

- ADB will not accept walk-in participants who have not registered online or were not registered by the Forum Secretariat and did not receive confirmation letters/emails; and
- ADB will not accept participants replacing registered self-funded participants who were not registered by the Forum Secretariat and did not receive confirmation letters/emails.

**EventsAir Mobile App.** Onsite participants will have access to a mobile app with details about each session. Participants can also reach out to other onsite participants using this app for networking opportunities. User login will be sent via email to access the mobile app. A Help Desk will be positioned at the ADB Main Entrance to provide assistance.

## 3. Dress Code and Conduct

**Dress Code.** Participants are requested to come in business attire during the Forum. We advise that you wear comfortable shoes since the ADB building has long hallways. Take note that the ADB Headquarters is fully air-conditioned.

**Conduct.** We expect all Forum participants to conduct themselves professionally and respectfully.

#### **4. Food and Drinks During the Forum**

Coffee will be available starting at 8:00 a.m. Morning and afternoon snacks will be served at the Auditorium Hall and Multifunction Hall hallways during the session.

Lunch venues vary per day so kindly look for signages and directional signs or consult the Forum Secretariat.

Halal and vegetarian meal options will be provided.

ADB will host welcome cocktails at 6:00 pm on 17 March at the ADB Staff Hub. Participants are encouraged to use this time to broaden their network and get to know their peers and fellow participants.

Please be aware of sudden venue changes and other announcements via voice-overs, digital displays or email blasts.

# Forum Essentials

## 1. Travel and Visa

Travelers must have a passport with a validity of at least 6 months after departure from the Philippines.

**Register and complete the [eTravel Portal](#). This can be done within 72h before arrival or upon arrival at the latest.**

A valid passport and a return ticket to the port of origin or ticket to the next port of destination.

Many nationals can enter the Philippines without visas for a stay not exceeding 21 days. Please check out the Official Website of the Republic of the Philippines' [Department of Foreign Affairs](#) for information about visa requirements.

## 2. Airport and Transfers

No airport transfers were arranged for all participants as the budget is part of your allowance. Your hotel can help arrange airport transfers from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA). Please call the hotel in advance to ask about this service. You can also avail of Grab Service (similar to Uber) at the airport or take accredited fixed rate or metered taxis explained below. Accredited NAIA metered taxis (different from regular taxis) generally fetch lower rates than prepaid transfer services.

Due to frequent heavy traffic between Ortigas Center and the airport, we strongly suggest that you leave for the airport at least 4 or 5 hours before your flight departure.

### Arrival in Manila

#### Terminals 1 and 3

Upon arrival in Manila at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA)-Terminals 1 OR 3, you may approach the airport transportation desk or proceed directly to the taxi queue or book through Grab through this link: <https://www.grab.com/global/airport-rides/ninoy-aquino-international-airport/>.

#### Terminal 2

If arriving at Terminal 2, please proceed to the taxi queue outside the arrival area. It is also recommended to book your car through Grab through this link: <https://www.grab.com/global/airport-rides/ninoy-aquino-international-airport/>

Accredited transfer services on a pre-paid coupon may be taken from the airport to Ortigas Center (where ADB is located) for an approximate rate of PhP845 (about US\$16.00). Accredited

NAlA metered taxis (an alternative to prepaid coupon taxis) generally fetch lower rates than prepaid transfer services.

### 3. Hotel Accommodation

Below is the list of hotels that are near ADB which you can contact directly. Discovery Suites offers a discounted rate for Forum participants. You may contact them directly to inquire for room availability.

Hotel	Proximity with ADB	Website
Discovery Suites Manila (includes ADB rate)	100 m or 1 minute walk to ADB	<a href="https://www.discoverysuites.com/">https://www.discoverysuites.com/</a>
Holiday Inn Manila Hotel	230 m or 3 mins walk to ADB	<a href="https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/pasig-city/mnlgl/hoteldetail?cm_mmc=GoogleMaps--HI--PH--MNLGL">https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/pasig-city/mnlgl/hoteldetail?cm_mmc=GoogleMaps--HI--PH--MNLGL</a>
Crowne Plaza Hotel	300 m or 4 mins walk to ADB	<a href="https://www.ihg.com/crowneplaza/hotels/us/en/quezon-city/mnlcp/hoteldetail?cm_mmc=GoogleMaps--CP--PH--MNLCP">https://www.ihg.com/crowneplaza/hotels/us/en/quezon-city/mnlcp/hoteldetail?cm_mmc=GoogleMaps--CP--PH--MNLCP</a>
EDSA Shangri-la Manila	1 km or 14 mins walk to ADB	<a href="https://www.shangri-la.com/manila/edsashangrila/">https://www.shangri-la.com/manila/edsashangrila/</a>

## About Manila

The Philippines is an archipelagic country in Southeast Asia comprising of more than 7,100 islands. It is one of the fastest-growing economies in the region and is home to the ADB headquarters.

Metro Manila is the national capital region of the Philippines. It covers one municipality (Pateros) and 16 cities, including the City of Manila (the country's capital), Quezon City (the most populous), and Mandaluyong City (where ADB is located). Manila was the first "global city" that connected Asia, the Americas, and Europe during the Manila-Acapulco galleon trade in the 1500s. Before this, it was a bustling trading outpost for goods from the People's Republic of China and other Asian neighbors.

Today, Metro Manila is a cosmopolitan city with a rich history and unique fusion of East and West, meshed with modern and traditional influences.

**Language.** Filipino is the national language. English is the business language and is widely spoken. English is the official language that will be used at the Forum.

**Time Zone.** Manila is 8 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT+8).

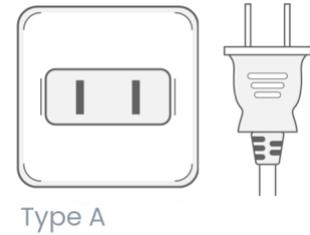
**Business Hours.** Private and government offices hold office either from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. on weekdays. Some private companies are open on Saturdays until 12:00 noon. Most shopping malls are open from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily. There are also 24-hour convenience stores, ATMs, and pharmacies nationwide. Banks usually close at 4:00 p.m.

**Currency Exchange and Credit Cards.** The currency of Philippines is the Peso. Exchange rate is estimated at Php 57–Php 59 = US\$1. Exchange counters and ATMs are available at the airport, hotel lobbies, and at in-house banks at the ground floor of the ADB headquarters.

International credit cards, such as American Express, Master Card, and Visa, are also widely accepted.

**Climate.** March in Manila is hot and dry, with average temperatures ranging from 23°C to 32°C (73°F to 90°F). It marks the start of the hotter, dry season, with daily highs often reaching 31°C–33°C (88°F–91°F). Humidity is high, and there is very little rainfall, making it ideal for outdoor activities but requiring sun protection. For the latest weather information, check the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) website: [www.pagasa.dost.gov.ph](http://www.pagasa.dost.gov.ph)

**Electric Current.** Electrical sockets in the Philippines are usually 220 volts AC at 60 hertz, using type “A” electrical sockets (see photo). For other types of plugs, you may wish to bring an adaptor.



**Telephone Codes.** The Philippine code is +63 and the area code for Metro Manila is 2. Take note that roaming charges may apply when you use your personal mobile networks.

### Emergency Numbers

- Police: 117
- National Emergency Hotline: 911

**Smoking Restrictions.** Smoking in public places is strictly prohibited per the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003 (Republic Act 9211). Please know that violators may be fined.

### Other Information

- [List of Foreign Embassies in Manila](#)
- [Department of Foreign Affairs – Philippines](#)
- [Department of Tourism – Philippines](#)

## Around ADB

The following establishments are mostly walking distance from ADB. Should you need medical assistance, the Forum Secretariat can assist you at your own expense.

### Medical Clinics and Hospitals

- Clinica Manila  
2nd Floor, SM Megamall Building A  
Doña Julia Vargas Avenue, Mandaluyong City  
Tel: +63 2 661 7777
- The Medical City Hospital (a long walk or a short taxi ride)  
Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City  
Tel: +6 32 8988 1000 or 7000

## Shopping Centers

- SM Megamall  
EDSA corner Doña Julia Vargas Avenue  
Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City  
Tel: +632 8633 1769
- Robinsons Galleria  
EDSA corner Ortigas Avenue  
Quezon City  
Tel: +632 8397 1888
- The Podium  
18 ADB Avenue  
Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City  
Tel: +632 8638 9781 to 85

**Shopping for Souvenirs.** ADB merchandise can be bought at the ADB Employees' Multi-Purpose Cooperative at the ground floor near Watsons Pharmacy.

For Philippine-made products and other local souvenirs, we suggest that you visit the following stores:

- Kultura Filipino (branches can be found in both SM Megamall Building A and at The Podium, walking distance from ADB)
- Greenhills Shopping Center (for an array of bazaars and stalls, a 20-minute ride away)
- Tiendesitas (also an array of bazaars and stalls, a 30-minute ride away)
- Tesoro's (for trusted traditional handicrafts, which is 30 minutes away in Makati City).

**Map.** Kindly refer to the [Ortigas Center map](#) for your guidance on nearby establishments.

## Materials

General information is posted in the [Forum website](#). After the Forum, all materials and recording will be available at the [Forum website](#) (until February 2027) and at the ADB Knowledge Events [website](#). The link will be sent via email blast after the event.

## Contact Us

### The Secretariat

Asia and the Pacific Food Systems Forum 2026

Asian Development Bank Email: [foodsystems@adb.org](mailto:foodsystems@adb.org)

Website: <https://foodsystems.adb.org/>