
Opportunities under IDB Loans

Overview

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is the oldest and largest of the regional multilateral development banks. Established in 1959, the IDB's purpose is to help accelerate economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean. There are 46 regional and non-regional member countries in the Bank, twenty-six of which are considered eligible to borrow. The IDB maintains its headquarters in Washington, D.C., and operates field offices in each of its borrowing member countries.

The Bank's main functions are:

- (1) To lend funds to its borrowing member countries for priority economic and social development projects;
- (2) To help member countries make better use of their resources while fostering foreign trade;
- (3) To promote the investment of public and private capital in the region; and
- (4) To provide technical cooperation to its borrowing members, usually in the form of grants, for the preparation, financing, and execution of development projects.

IDB Priorities for the 1990's

During this decade, the IDB will intensify its involvement in five critical areas: social reform, including efforts to reduce poverty; strengthening of the private sector; restructuring of the state; productive and technological modernization; and support for greater involvement of all members of society in decision making.

The Bank will focus its resources on these priority areas, with 40% of its lending volume (representing 50% of the total number of its projects) directed at activities related to poverty alleviation and social reform. Broadly defined, this type of lending includes projects in education, health, sanitation, urban and rural development, microenterprise development and the environment.