





# Meeting the Investment Financing Challenges

### IMF Conference on Infrastructure Investment and LICs

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### Introduction

- In most developing countries in Asia, there are good examples of private-sector funded infrastructure projects
- Valuable legacy from 20 years of build, financing and operation of roads, power plants, ports, water projects
  - Quality construction management
  - Operation and maintenance focus
  - Human resources development
  - Financing know-how
  - Restructuring knowledge
- Need for infrastructure investment in developing countries is beyond doubt
- In Asia, the private sector is straining to invest more in infrastructure but faces a shortage of bankable opportunities



## Creating Bankable Infrastructure Opportunities – Memo 1 & 2

- Memo 1: Most infrastructure projects have complex concession and implementation agreements.
  - Replicate successful model contracts ("South-South")
  - Standardise key contract terms & stick to them (creating a clear 'benchmark')
  - Issue all permits / approvals / licences through a well-resourced single window
  - Get started; a good project next year is preferable to a better project in a decade
- Memo 2: Establish a fair risk-reward balance and provide clear Government support.
  - Be generous with support for challenging projects (alternative is "finance it yourself")
  - Back-stop availability payments or minimum revenue guarantees until demand and patronage is firmly established
  - Private infrastructure begins as an infant industry and needs to achieve economies of scale
  - A large portfolio of performing infrastructure projects is the best way to attract more capital
  - Government support will reduce risk and drive down cost of capital



### Creating Bankable Infrastructure Opportunities – Memo 3

- Memo 3: Suggestions on how to mobilise financing
  - Governments should have their own strategy & objectives for private infrastructure financing
  - Ensure local banks have some role, even if its small (financing knowledge-transfer)
  - Reach out to export credit agencies & multilaterals on a programmatic basis (not one-offs projects)
  - Embed incentives for projects to refinance post-completion & keep the benefits:
    - Local currency refinancing reduces FX indexation
    - Bond refinancing develops capital markets
    - Successful refinancings strengthen future supply of construction financing
  - Require successful projects to seek a published credit rating
  - Use tax breaks to encourage domestic IPO of infrastructure assets
  - Create a SWF or publicly-owned infrastructure holdco to buy minority equity stakes



## Infrastructure Journey for a Low Income Country

#### 1. QUESTIONS

Is infrastructure really a government priority?

Would a "Ministry of Infrastructure" attract the best public servants?

Do you really want the private sector and foreign capital in infrastructure?

What infrastructure can the private sector best provide?

#### 2. POLICIES

Establish sound legal framework for private infrastructure projects;

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...ak sharing through
...evenue guarantees,
...iotection.

Incentivise projects to refinance, IPQ astructure
and drop revenue-guarantees, as Initialization
soon as possible
...e
...al in

proposals. Whether a cat is black or white

Consider simple concessions first; market competition can be introduced in 10-20 years

Get started. Capacity is built and experience gained through doing.

### 4. TIPS

Insist on local currency financing for 5-10% of all project debt.

Offer expansion or second, third project opportunities to successful project sponsors on a negotiated basis.

Foreign banks should support infrastructure lending.

Faced with FX or macroeconomic difficulties, negotiate and restructure; don't abuse foreign investors.



### Standard Chartered – Here for Good, Here for Infrastructure



