

US President George Bush's statement

I am pleased to send warm greetings to those attending the 34th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank. I am delighted that Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, Chairman of the Board of Governors, is present to represent my Administration. I welcome you to Honolulu, Hawaii, and extend my appreciation to Governor Benjamin Cayetano and Mayor Jeremy Harris for hosting this event.

The Asian Development Bank continues to be a vital catalyst in promoting economic growth, creating jobs, and raising living standards in some of the world's most dynamic economies. The Asia Pacific region is a crucial partner to the United States. Although the past few years have posed challenges to the region, my Administration has the utmost faith that continued reforms and hard work will ensure that growth and prosperity will continue. And I give you my personal pledge that the U.S. market will remain open so that we can continue to contribute to Asian Pacific prosperity.

The United States continues to maintain a strong commitment to the Asian Development Bank, which is a key member of the family of international financial institutions. The United States has a strong interest in seeing that effective, accountable, and strong international financial institutions remain a central part of the international financial system. We look to the Asian Development Bank to maintain the highest standards of accountability, and we look for concrete, measurable results, as we do with all multilateral development banks.

We look forward to working with the Asian Development bank to develop and implement the policies and projects that will increase productivity and provide the basis for greater growth and achievement in the years to come. Best wishes for a successful meeting.