

## CANADA

### HAU SING TSE, Head of Delegation

I would like to begin by thanking the people of Shanghai and the Government of the People's Republic of China for hosting this Annual Meeting and providing us an opportunity to see directly the economic and cultural dynamism of this city.

Less than two months ago, the international community met in Monterrey, Mexico to focus on the broad theme of Financing for Development. While the Monterrey Conference may not have met the high expectations of many, we believe that it has helped to reinvigorate international development discussions. It has established a framework for a new development partnership based on mutual accountability. In this framework, developing countries take greater responsibility for sound policies and governance and developed countries make greater effort to support the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. We hope that this growing sense of development partnership will pervade our interaction at this meeting and the work of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in future years.

As a founding member of ADB, Canada has witnessed for many years the vital work that it does in Asia and the Pacific. We would like to note our appreciation to President Chino for the role he has played in several achievements of ADB in recent years. Among those we would like to highlight are:

- establishing poverty reduction as the overarching goal of ADB and ensuring sustained follow-up focused on implementing this goal;
- completing the Long-Term Strategic Framework for 2001-2015 and the first medium-term strategy within this vision;
- establishing an NGO Center to strengthen ADB's cooperation with civil society; and
- reorganizing the Bank to enhance its country focus and establish new resident missions.

We also welcome ADB's endorsement of the Millennium Development Goals. We believe ADB should use these goals as a benchmark to assess its progress and to report on its achievements. This requires a strengthened focus on evaluation and performance measurement. It is critical to demonstrate both to the general public and to our parliaments that the resources we provide are making a tangible difference.

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals also demands a new partnership committed to sound policies and good governance. In this respect, Canada welcomes ADB's commitment to help member countries strengthen their overall governance

performance. I am pleased to mention that Canada recently signed a trust fund agreement with ADB to support work in the field of governance. This multidonor facility will contribute to improving transparency, enhancing country capacity, and promoting regional initiatives.

As we look forward, we would like to underscore the areas to which we feel ADB should devote greater attention.

- First, ADB needs to continue to improve its coordination with other national and international players. Financial resources for international assistance are now and will continue to be limited so we cannot undermine the effectiveness of such resources by duplication of effort or by competition among institutions. In this respect, we were pleased to observe ADB working in close collaboration with other multilateral institutions in the context of the reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan.
- Second, we are pleased that ADB is finalizing its policy on environment, but, as we have seen, implementation and follow-up of such policies is critical. The recent review of the Samut Prakarn project in Thailand has clearly illustrated some of these challenges and provided several lessons to ADB. In this context, we welcome the recently announced review of the Inspection Function. We would hope that this review will lead to an inspection function that is credible and constructive and has broad-based support from member countries.
- Third, ADB needs to address follow-up issues related to its reorganization. Here we would note the need to clarify the role and mandate of ADB vice-presidents. The low number of women in senior staff positions at ADB also particularly concerns Canada. We expect ADB to work actively to remedy this situation.
- Fourth, ADB needs greater transparency in the implementation of the Performance-Based Allocation system for ADF resources.
- Fifth, we believe that ADB needs to expedite the in-depth review of its future resource requirements as authorized by governors at the annual meeting two years ago in Chiang Mai.

In conclusion, I would like to return to the issue of partnership. Canada reiterates its willingness to work with you, President Chino, in your efforts to strengthen ADB and improve its development effectiveness. And we wish to work with all member countries to help ADB and the countries of Asia and the Pacific build a better life for all the citizens of this region and make sustained progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

