

**MYANMAR****KHIN MAUNG THEIN, Governor**

It is a great pleasure and privilege for me to address the 2002 Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in the famous city, Shanghai, the People's Republic of China. I would like to take this opportunity to warmly thank the Government and the people of the People's Republic of China, ADB President, Tadao Chino, and the executives for their efforts in making the excellent arrangements for the meeting and the warm hospitality they have extended to my delegation. I would also like to express my appreciation to ADB for providing assistance to some of the developing member countries to enable them to raise their socioeconomic conditions and their standards of living through the implementation of infrastructure developments, agriculture, natural resources, and multisector projects that will help improve quality of life as well as reduce poverty.

May I touch upon Myanmar's endeavors for economic development in line with the market-oriented economic system. The first short-term four-year plan from 1992 to 1995, and the second short-term five-year plan from 1996 to 2000 were successfully implemented with an average annual growth rate of 7.5% and 8.4% respectively. The targets set in the plans were fulfilled. Success was achieved in implementing national economic plans due to participation by the people under the guidance of the Government authorities. As you are aware the national development undertakings have been successfully implemented with our financial resources relying only on internal strength. In building the nation, the good foundations of development have been achieved through peace, stability, unity and internal strength, cooperation, and self-reliant efforts. Human resource development is required to enable Myanmar to stand as a modern and developed nation, while maintaining the good foundations for economic development and strengthening the highly qualified human resources in the nation. In the context of human resources, the special national education promotion program has been laid down and implemented to promote the national education standard, not only to keep abreast with other nations but also to face the challenges of the knowledge age. At the same time, necessary measures for building national economic infrastructure are being made to strengthen and facilitate agricultural infrastructure development as Myanmar is an agrarian country and requires transport links to all parts of the nation, from east to west and from north to south, to facilitate and promote trade-related activities among the national races.

Myanmar is implementing the third short-term five-year plan from 2001 to 2005 with a view to (i) achieve a sustainable higher growth rate; to establish agro-based industries and other required industries as a first step to set up an industrialized nation to develop electric power and energy sectors in line with the expansion of industry; (ii) expand agricultural production intensively and extensively, and livestock and fishery sectors, as well for self-sufficiency and export promotion; (iii) expand afforestation works and greening of lands in the dry zone; and (iv) expand the development of health care and education promotion programs in support of highly qualified human resources.

The Government has placed much emphasis on the improvement of human life in rural and urban areas, as well as on increased production of agricultural crops—introducing triple and multiple cropping patterns all the year round as the yields of agricultural crops are directly beneficial to rural people for their better income generation. On the other hand, the Government has paid priority to better conditions of transport links from one area to another, water supply, education and health improvement, and economic standards in the rural areas to raise the socioeconomic conditions of the rural populace through the integrated rural development scheme being implemented under the current five-year plan. These efforts are in support of basic human needs and environmental protection in all states and divisions to narrow the gap between rural and urban areas to promote equality of opportunities across the nation.

Over the past decade, Myanmar has been striving for economic development to uplift the standards of living of the people. Myanmar has tried to normalize relations with ADB to maintain a better understanding and cooperation as before in the new era of globalization and environment. However, from the past decade we do not have any assistance from ADB, and now it is high time for ADB to consider providing some assistance to Myanmar.

In conclusion, I would like to pay attention to the fact that ADB needs to collaborate with all members to meet their requirements to achieve a better understanding and cooperation for enabling opportunities to achieve their development outcomes. I hope that the outcome of the present annual meeting will reflect the needs of ADB members, especially less-developed and developing countries to cope with the changing global economic integration through globalization processes and information and communication technology to provide greater opportunities for all members.