

## **TURKMENISTAN\***

**ENEBAY ATAEVA, Governor**

Let me greet you on behalf of the Government of Turkmenistan at this meeting, organized by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on the occasion of the Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting. For the first time, Turkmenistan is taking part in the annual meeting, held by ADB, and it is a great honor for me to represent my country addressing you at such a considerable forum. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to ADB managers, who are present here, for the perfect organization of the meeting.

Let me state in short the current economic situation in Turkmenistan and its economic strategy. Thanks to the internal and external policy carrying out in our country under the leadership of the President of Turkmenistan, Saparmurat Turkmenbashi, the country is confidently moving ahead along the way of further fundamental changes in all spheres of vital activity, realizing the measures provided for in the National Program.

Supported by her own resources and using the progressive world experience of economic development, our country is gradually turning into the producer of finished production out of the deliverer of raw material in the world market.

Large-scale works of economic potential are intensifying, all spheres of the economy are developing, market reforms are deepening, and people's well-being is improving throughout the country.

Step-by-step realization of the goals, planned by the state programs of social-economic development of Turkmenistan, allowed to considerably increase the volumes of industrial and agricultural production, build capital, and improve transport infrastructure and communications. In the shortest period, we have succeeded in the raising the export potential for the account of new processing complexes development. At the same time, Turkmenistan lowered its dependency on production import for the account of internal market saturation with its own production, especially with the products of oil processing, textile, and food industry. Released currency resources are directed to the further development of economic sector and providing high level of the population with social protection.

I would like to make some comments regarding ADB's functioning and further projects. In August 2000, Turkmenistan joined ADB and became its 59th member. We are noting with satisfaction and watching the progress, made by the signing of Technical Assistance Agreement, which represents the receiving of technical assistance from ADB, including participation in regional projects.

The other important event is the Economic Report and Interim Operational Strategy for Turkmenistan, which have been approved by the Board of Directors of ADB. The proposed strategy conforms to long-term goals put in the National Program: Social-

---

\* Statement submitted for inclusion in the official records. Turkmenistan was not represented at the annual meeting.

Economic Development of Turkmenistan for 2000-2001, and its priority is to assist the Government in raising the level of living in the country.

The problem of ADB's representation opening in Turkmenistan has been resolved and its office will be situated in Ashkhabad.

Within the prescribed procedure the application on the country's classification defining was sent to ADB by the Government of Turkmenistan. We would like to have the problem of Turkmenistan's joining the group of countries—Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Singapore, and Thailand—be solved as soon as possible.

Within the basic trends of ADB's activity, which are directed to the level of poverty reduction, contributing to economic growth in Asia and Pacific countries, Turkmenistan expects to receive financial support in the realization of the projects of Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan gas pipeline building, construction of transport infrastructure connecting Turkmenistan with Afghanistan, and building the Afghanistan electric power supply line. Realization of these projects is actual, because currently we are the witnesses of the renewed State of Afghanistan origin.

Consideration of the issues of population safe drinking water supply, sanitation, building of rural ways of communication, natural resources management, environmental protection is worth attention.

Let me express my confidence that the Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting of ADB will create additional preconditions for the development of fruitful cooperation for the achievement of greater successes both in socioeconomic and political development of Asia and Pacific countries.