



MYANMAR

HLA TUN, Governor

It gives me great honour and pleasure to have the opportunity to address this auspicious occasion of the 38th Asian Development Bank Annual Meeting in this very beautiful city of Istanbul.

First of all, on behalf of the delegation of the Union of Myanmar and on my own behalf, I would like to welcome the new President of the Bank. With his vast experience and able leadership, we look forward for the ADB to promote further regional cooperate in the new era of development.

I wish to join fellow Governors to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the management and Bank staff for the excellent preparation and arrangements being made for this important meeting. At the same time I would also like to express my sincere thanks to the people and the Government of Turkey for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to us since our arrival.

I also would like to congratulate Mr. Chairman for being elected as the Chair for this Meeting. We believe that under his guidance this meeting would be very fruitful and successful.

It is the first and foremost task of every government to achieve economic growth and social progress for promoting the living standards of the people. In this regard the Government of Myanmar has been implementing short-term National Economic Development Plans with the aim to accelerate growth and to achieve equitable, balanced and sustainable development.

In recent years, Myanmar has achieved remarkable economic growths and significant progress in social sectors, resulting from the untiring efforts being made mostly on self reliance basis.

Developing countries have been trying their utmost for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) endorsed at the occasion of the Millennium Summit in 2000. For Myanmar, even without assistance from international agencies, it has attained noticeable achievements in carrying out its National Economic Development Plans within the framework of the MDGs.

National Development Programmes have been laid down and are being implemented in order to:

- to fulfill the basic needs of the nationalities residing in the remote and border areas;
- to ensure easy accessibility among the regions and raising the socio-economic life of the nationals;
- to attain balanced and equitable development over the whole country;

- for the advancement of the rural populace, comprising 70% of the total population.

Accordingly, highways, all weather roads, feeder roads, bridges dispensaries, hospitals, schools and universities have been built and progress can be seen. Transport network has been build and as a result, more than 35,000 miles of roads have been built within (15) years period. Moreover, clusters of dams, reservoirs and irrigation canals are being built. Nearly (200) bridges have been constructed, among which the Thanlwin bridge which span over the Thanlwin River, is the largest and longest. It is also the major connection part of the East-West Economic Corridor Project comprising Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam and Yunan Province of PRC under the GMS Cooperation Program.

At present, the local people are enjoying the outcomes of the three Development Programmes and the targeted economic progress as well as enhanced socio economic lives of the people have been brought into reality.

The developing countries need Official Development Assistance (ODA) from the International Community in order for them not only to achieve economic development and to integrate smoothly into the global economy but also to fulfill the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In fact, it is the responsibility of the International Community to set up fair and equal conditions for the developing countries to enjoy ODA which would help support sustainable development of their economies.

Even though Myanmar has being refrained from receiving Official Development Assistance from the International, and multilateral organizations, I would like to stress that Myanmar has been actively participating and cooperating in Regional Cooperation Programmes, such as the BIMST -EC, ASEAN, GMS, etc.

In addition, Myanmar is participating more actively in the international arena and is striving not only to safeguard its national interest, but also to keep track of the rapid changes in the process of globalization.

Myanmar is continuing to intensify its efforts at fighting money laundering and combating financing of terrorism. In 2002, the Control of Money Laundering Law was enacted and Rules relating to it were promulgated in 2003. In April 2004, Myanmar signed the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, intended to increase worldwide cooperation in the fight against money laundering and other illegal activities committed by international criminal groups. The Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters law was enacted in April 2004 and the Rules relating to that law was promulgated in October of the same year.

It is the desire of the people of Myanmar to see the country eventually emerging as a modern nation. As for the national setting, the seven point Road Map will pave the way for the establishment of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation as desired by the entire people. I am happy to state that the National Convention, which is the most vital and the very first phase of the Road Map, is in progress.

Finally, I would like to express our profound thanks once again to the people and the Government of Turkey for their warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements provided to us. Let me conclude by thanking Mr. President and the Bank staff for their continued

dedication to the economic development in the region and we look forward to having more closer cooperation like before with the Bank in the near future.

Thank you.