

TURKMENISTAN

B. M. NURMAMMEDOV, Head of Delegation

On behalf of the Government of Turkmenistan I greet the esteemed gathering and would like to express gratitude to President of the ADB Mr. Haruhiko Kuroda and the staff of this Bank, as well as to the Government of Turkey and Istanbul city for the organization of this 38th Annual Meeting on such a high level.

We are very grateful for the opportunity to participate in this forum and highly appreciate the mutual understanding existing between us so much promoting the expansion of the cooperation of ADB and Turkmenistan.

Our country, under the leadership of President of Turkmenistan Saparmurat Turkmenbashi pursues the peaceful domestic and foreign policies. Thanks to these policies, we have good active relations with over 95 countries of the world and continue to expand the geography of the economic relationship based first of all on the mutual interest in solution of economic issues. Commencing from 2003, Turkmenistan successfully implements the National Program “Strategy of economic, political and cultural development of Turkmenistan for the period through 2020” where the priority aims and objectives of the development of the country in the beginning of XXI century are defined. The development strategy implies the solution of one in two tasks—establishment of modern, competitive economy and its deep integration to the world economy.

The successful realization of the national economic strategy paved the way for the creation of the basis of market economy of mixed type directed on the strengthening of economic independent and sustainable development of all its sectors. The stepwise implementation of objectives defined in the state programs of socioeconomic development of Turkmenistan allowed to increase largely the volumes of industrial and agricultural production, investments, to develop transport infrastructure and communication. Owing to the creation of modern industrial complexes operating with the use of advanced technologies and local raw materials, Turkmenistan managed to raise substantially its export potential within the shortest period of time.

The sustainable growth of the economy provides the possibility to pursue actively the social policy directed on the security of all groups of the population. Such municipal services as water, gas, electricity are provided to the population on at no charge basis. The education is free of charge.

The Government continues the implementation of market reforms, the building of adequate legal framework aimed at promoting the development of non-public sector of the economy. For instance, in 2004, the new Tax, Land and Water Codes were enacted with the goal to reduce expenditures and stimulate the development of new technologies in production and further develop agricultural sector.

Major economic indicators reflect high economic growth and balanced development of main industries and infrastructure. Stable performance of real sector over the recent 6 years and economic results for 2004 suggest the incontestable evidence of the chosen direction of our economic development strategy. Previous year Gross Domestic Product increased in real terms by 17%, and over the last 6 years the real production of goods and services increased 2.6 times.

Our close cooperation with the Asian Development Bank started in 2000 when Turkmenistan became the 59th member of the Bank. After signing Framework Agreement on Technical Assistance with ADB in July 2001, including participation in regional initiatives, our relations enhanced in areas of investment projects and in projects aimed on capacity building and human resources development. With pleasure we want to note the active and dynamic work of the Asian Development Bank in Turkmenistan related to realization of regional energy and infrastructure development projects.

In conclusion, I would like to express confidence that in future the Asian Development Bank will continue productive cooperation with Turkmenistan with the purpose of achieving even more positive results in socioeconomic development of the country.

Thank you for your attention!