



39TH ANNUAL MEETING

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Hyderabad, India

4–6 May 2006

GS-04

KAZAKHSTAN

Alikhan Smailov, Temporary Alternate Governor

First of all, let me on behalf of the Republic of Kazakhstan greet the participants at the meeting and express my assurance that today's meeting will give a new impetus to the intensification and expansion of cooperation between ADB's member countries.

I would like also to thank the Government of the India for its hospitality and express my gratitude to ADB for the organization of this meeting.

Our cooperation with ADB is of great importance for the Republic of Kazakhstan. Implementation of joint projects in the areas of infrastructure development, agriculture, water supply, and environmental protection show both a high level of mutual understanding between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and ADB and great potential for further cooperation. In addition, I would like to note that, along with other international financial institutions, ADB will have opportunities to play a key role in the development and implementation of large-scale interregional projects in Central Asia that will facilitate the integration and economic development of states in the region.

In this respect, Kazakhstan supports the new initiatives contained in the second medium-term strategy (MTS II).

The Republic of Kazakhstan has adopted the ambitious goal of being among the 50 most competitive countries in the world. It is difficult to overestimate the importance of cooperation with the international financial institutions as we work to achieve this task. ADB's expertise and knowledge will be needed by the Republic of Kazakhstan to create hi-tech industries, and to diversify the economy and increase its competitiveness.

In accordance with the address by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan on 1 March 2006, the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan has been assigned tasks that will allow the country to strengthen its economic development and to improve the citizens' quality of life.

At the same time, the primary tasks and priorities of the Government correspond to those in the strategic plan for state development up to 2010, focusing on further realization of the long-term country development strategy up to 2030.

At present, we have preliminary analysis of the basic macroeconomic results for the last year. We achieved progress in most indicators.



For example, real GDP growth in 2005 was 9,4%, which amounted to US\$56 billion. Our per capita GDP was \$3,620, and we plan to increase this to \$5,800 by 2010.

I believe that we have not only the program documents but the instruments that will enable us to realize our goals and provide incentives for businesses in our country.

In this regard, we hope to further expand the fields of cooperation between Kazakhstan and ADB. We would like to include not only such issues as infrastructure improvement, improving the business environment, and solving ecological problems, but improvements to the investment climate, and the development of sectors of the economy outside raw materials, tourism and agriculture.

In conclusion, I would like once again to extend to the ADB Board of Governors an invitation from the Republic of Kazakhstan to host the Annual Meeting of the ADB Board of Governors in our country in the near future.