



40th ANNUAL MEETING
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
Kyoto, Japan



6-7 May 2007

**Closing Remarks by the
Chair of the Board of Governors and Governor for Japan
Honorable Koji Omi**

The 40th Annual Meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is coming to an end. I feel greatly honored to have played host to this memorable event here in Kyoto.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Governors, the ADB staff and all the participants for their cooperation in the success of this meeting. Particularly, I am grateful to the Governors of Samoa and Spain for their help as the Vice Chairs. In addition, on behalf of the Governors, I would like to express special thanks to Kyoto people for their hospitality.

The Governors offered various opinions such as the future challenges for Asia and the role of the ADB in these two days.

Many Governors have illustrated enormous achievements of the Asia-Pacific region in the past 40 years, and ADB's contribution.

At the same time, they pointed out that there are still a number of challenges to be tackled, including poverty reduction as well as some new challenges such as climate change and other environmental problems. The Governors also shared the view that ADB must continue to undertake its important mission as a regional development bank so that this region will overcome the challenges and become a model for the other regions in the world.

I expect ADB to listen sincerely to these valuable opinions from the Governors and to continue to contribute to the development of the Asia-Pacific region. I also expect President Kuroda to continue to exercise excellent leadership in the accomplishment of the mission.

I would like to end my closing remarks by expressing my hope that all of you will fully enjoy this beautiful city of Kyoto and return home safely.

Thank you very much.