

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

TAJIKAN KALIMBETOVA, Governor

It is an honor and privilege for me to welcome all the participants at the 41st Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on behalf of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Let me express my sincere appreciation to the Management and staff of ADB, personally to the ADB President Mr. Haruhiko Kuroda, as well as to the Spanish authorities for the excellent organization of the meeting and for their generous hospitality.

ADB is a key international financial institution in the Asia and Pacific region, which has great potential to contribute to the process of economic and social development in the region through effective cooperation with its members and other international financial institutions. I would like to note that the new long-term strategic framework 2008–2020 (Strategy 2020) is in line with the Millennium Development Goals, as well with as the challenges lying ahead for Asia and the Pacific region. The Kyrgyz Government believes that Strategy 2020 will be an effective guide to the achievement of sustainable development and poverty reduction in the region.

Taking into consideration the great contribution of ADB to the region's economic and social development, I would like to emphasize the significance of its assistance to the economic and social development of the Kyrgyz Republic. ADB's work is directed toward support of the priority tasks of the Kyrgyz Government and to resolving acute social challenges and successfully implementing development projects in such areas as transport infrastructure, agriculture, and education.

Let me express sincere appreciation to the ADB Management and President for the decision to approve a new grant framework, which has enabled the Kyrgyz Republic to receive 100% of its Asian Development Fund (ADF) assistance in grants. This was an important move for the Kyrgyz Republic.

As a result of the efforts of the Kyrgyz Government, we have been able to achieve 8.2% economic growth in almost in all sectors of the economy. The flow of direct investments and foreign trade have both increased. Budget revenues grew significantly last year, which enabled the Government to increase pensions and wages for public service. The Kyrgyz Republic created a platform for structural reforms in the energy and mining sectors and started works on the construction of huge energy projects. Road construction activities are underway for international corridors as well as for national roads, and we recognize the major contribution of ADB to such infrastructure projects.

The approval of the country development strategy for 2007-2010 was another important event of 2007. This is a mid-term strategic document setting out a vision and priorities for the Government until 2010 and covers: (i) growth-oriented economic development and improving the business environment, (ii) human and social resources development, (iii) environmental sustainability, and (iv) improving governance.

On the basis of this country development strategy, ADB and other key donors adopted a joint country support strategy for 2007-2010, which is in close alignment with the key priorities of the country development strategy.

The further development of the country on basis of priorities established in the country development strategy will be carried out through the performance of tasks set by the President at the beginning of this year. These will be directed at the introduction of new financial tools to mobilize free financial resources within the country, support for infrastructure and the modernization of economy to intensify domestic output, provision of qualified personnel for the economy, modernization of fiscal policy, reforms in the social sphere, and development of regions.

Given the geographically favorable location of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Government's policy is directed at extending and deepening regional cooperation. The Government welcomes all the regional initiatives proposed by ADB, and attaches high importance to the Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) program, which the Kyrgyz Republic participates in actively. The CAREC program will enable the Kyrgyz Republic to become an economic corridor between the south and north, and the west and east of Asia. Under CAREC, we look forward to a deepening of trade relations with neighboring countries, development of power production capacity, and access to foreign energy markets.

In conclusion, I would like to join my colleagues, the other Governors, in expressing deep gratitude to the President of ADB, Mr. Haruhiko Kuroda, the ADB staff, and Executive Director Mr. Keppie Sumadilaga for their fruitful work during the last year. I would like to wish you all the best for the future and assure you of the support of the Kyrgyz Republic in the coming years.