

## Chair's Summary of Meeting of the Board of Directors

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3 October 2008

### **Samoa: Country Partnership Strategy (2008–2012)**

1. Directors endorsed the Samoa Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for 2008–2012. Directors particularly appreciated the close cooperation among development partners and welcomed the close alignment of the CPS with the Government's development strategy. One Director commented favorably on the participation of the People's Republic of China in the donor coordination mechanism.
2. Directors supported the focus of the CPS on infrastructure and private sector development. While commending the Government on its commitment to reform and the progress made, Directors appreciated that more needed to be achieved, particularly in the area of reducing the Government's involvement in commercial activities and the need for further reform among state-owned enterprises. One Director cautioned that the projects in small countries should be of an appropriate size to not overburden the country with debt or infrastructure of excessive capacity and/or cost.
3. One Director expressed concern that the private sector road map was vague—there was an expectation that the strategy would have contained some specific actions in favor of agriculture, fisheries, small and medium enterprises, and tourism development. The country team explained that the Private Sector Assessment provided specific directions for the private sector development which was already under way with the support of ongoing technical assistance. One Director inquired about ADB's support for aid-for-trade. Staff explained that the Pacific Plan governs the region's integration and regional cooperation efforts, which is supported by ADB through various programs such as the Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility and Regional Audit initiative, among others. In 2009, ADB will undertake an analysis of the opportunities to liberalize the maritime transport sector in the region. Also at the national level, ADB provides in many Pacific developing member countries (PDMC) technical assistance for establishing broad based taxation to ensure steady fiscal revenues in place of import duties, thus enabling PDMCs to liberalize trade.
4. One Director inquired about the role of the country focal office to be established in Samoa. Staff confirmed that recruitment of liaison personnel for the offices in Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Tonga is in progress.