

CLOSING REMARKS

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On behalf of the Ministry of Construction, I thank the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Ministry of Finance, and all the representatives whose active participation contributed to the workshop's great success.

As the People's Republic of China (PRC) enters the 21st century, it faces the challenges of the socialist market economy and of urbanization. We therefore invited policymakers, mayors, and city construction committee directors from 16 cities to discuss urban policy strategies. They discussed issues and concerns related to water supply, wastewater and solid waste management, drainage and urban transportation—all key topics in urban development.

After the discussions on urban management, finance, and environment, the participants identified key steps that must be taken:

- Strengthen urban planning and strategic development.
- Reform urban management in order to transform the city government from supplier to promoter. Introduce market competition in the public utilities sector.
- Reform the investment system and expand fund-raising channels to encourage the private sector, foreign investors, and banks to invest in infrastructure. Allow infrastructure enterprises to raise funds through the issuance of stocks and bonds.
- Reform the system of taxation and fee charging. Adopt the “polluter pays” policy. Adopt new pricing measures for water supply and sewage and for solid waste collection.

- Promote good urban environment and living conditions based on sustainable development.
- Streamline administration and decentralize Government to empower local governments and to give full support to their initiatives.
- Improve the systems of land management and leasing. Enhance urban planning and land development. Formulate development plans for urban integration.
- Implement transportation planning and management, and enhance transportation facilities. Give priority to public transportation.
- Strengthen urban traffic management and administration.
- Improve traffic management software and systems.
- Eliminate urban poverty. Reduce the gap between rich and poor. Ensure equality in urban planning, housing policy, and other urban policies.
- Expand public and community participation in city construction. Strengthen coordination among the different fields of urban endeavor.

The workshop allowed us to learn from each other. The mayors, for example, related their experiences in urban management, such as the problem of issuing bonds. International experts introduced helpful methods. All the participating cities will continue to foster future exchanges with ADB.

This workshop will have a far-reaching influence on the PRC's urban development. It has also helped ADB to learn more about cities in the PRC.