

Farewell Remarks

Choong Yong Ahn

The views expressed herein are the views of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) or its Board of Directors or the governments they represent. ADB makes no representation concerning and does not guarantee the source originality, accuracy, completeness, or reliability of any statement, information, data, finding, advice, opinion, or views presented.

Simply I would like to congratulate you on what you have accomplished in renewing our goals and contributing your insights on how to achieve our vision.

I would like to briefly share with you KIEP's perspective on the issues discussed in this Forum and the role KIEP is going to play in the years to come.

First, with regard to the DDA negotiations, as you are all aware, there have been conflicts of interest between developed and developing economies, creating difficulties in reaching a consensus. East Asian countries, which have developed through export-oriented strategies, must play a critical role in making policy recommendations to maximize the benefits of trade liberalization as well as facilitation.

Second, there has been rapid propagation of FTAs in East Asia. Extensive research is crucial on the appropriate selection of partners including APEC-wide FTAs, related sequencing, and behind border issues.

KIEP has been emphasizing area studies covering major economic areas including East Asia. Within KIEP, we have established the Northeast Asian Cooperation Center to invite researchers from East Asia to work together on issues of common interest. KIEP is reinforcing its role of think tank in Korea, focusing on trade as well as regional issues in the East Asian context.

Before we reach research collaboration agreements in this region, my personal view is that we, researchers and policy makers, must establish friendships and a network to lay a foundation for more concrete goals. I hope KIEP, through this Forum, can serve as a catalyzer to facilitate dialogue between participating institutions for mutual benefit. In the years to come, I urge you to drop in on us at KIEP next time you visit Korea. And then we can work face to face to realize an academician's dream.

Bon Voyage