



Asian Development Bank

**Global MDG3 Champion Torch Initiative
(11.30am, Thursday 31 July 2008, Manila ADB Head Office)
Commitment Statement
President Haruhiko Kuroda, Asian Development Bank, Manila**

On behalf of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), I accept the MDG3 torch and commit to the following new activities to support gender equality and women's empowerment:

1. ADB will implement its new long-term strategic framework or Strategy 2020, which highlights gender equity as one of the five drivers of change for achieving the greatest impact in Asia and the Pacific. Strategy 2020 will stress support for investments in rural infrastructure, covering irrigation and water management, rural roads, and rural electrification—services that particularly benefit women.
2. ADB will strengthen the monitoring of its contribution to gender equality results at the country and institutional levels. Its country partnership strategies will include the results frameworks that duly reflect country gender assessments and gender strategies. ADB will increase the number of projects with a gender theme or a gender mainstreaming from a baseline of 37.7% in 2004-2006. ADB will annually report on the progress in this regard in its Development Effectiveness Review.
3. ADB will scale up partnerships with the United Nations and multilateral and bilateral agencies to work on improvements in statistical capacity of countries in Asia and the Pacific to collect and update sex disaggregated data and gender equality information, so that these countries can better monitor gender-related targets in the Millennium Development Goals.
4. ADB will strengthen policy research and advisory services on gender dimensions of vulnerabilities associated with looming regional and global challenges, such as food crisis and climate change. In particular, the policy work will identify the patterns of impacts and coping mechanisms in Asia and the Pacific and find ways to reduce vulnerability among women and girls.