

Project Profiles and Updates

Southern Transport Corridor Road Rehabilitation Project

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will help boost economic growth and reduce poverty in the Kyrgyz Republic through the Southern Transport Corridor Road Rehabilitation Project, for which a \$32.8 million loan was approved on 23 November 2004. The project will foster regional trade and cooperation by rehabilitating a key transport corridor linking the country with the People's Republic of China (PRC) and Uzbekistan. The project will seek to reduce the cost of road transport and improve access to (i) markets for agricultural goods, (ii) employment opportunities, and (iii) social services.

The project will improve the 124-kilometer Osh-Gulcha-Sopu Korgon section of the Osh-Sary Tash-Irkeshtam road and procure maintenance equipment for the entire road. The road comprises part of the transport corridor linking the Kyrgyz



BUILDING ROADS The Southern transport corridor linking the Kyrgyz Republic to the People's Republic of China and Uzbekistan



Republic with the PRC and Uzbekistan. It connects to the Bishkek-Osh road, a vital national transport corridor, and to the road to Tajikistan and on to Afghanistan, both of which are also being rehabilitated with ADB support.

An \$800,000 technical assistance (TA) grant supplements the loan to improve road maintenance and help the Ministry of Transport and Communications establish and operate a transport corridor management department for the Osh-Sary Tash-Irkeshtam road. Another \$500,000 TA grant will fund activities to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, and human trafficking. Both TA grants will be financed from the Japan Special Fund, financed by the Government of Japan.

The Ministry of Transport and Communications is the executing agency for the project, due for completion in September 2008. ■