

**ICP Asia Pacific
Meeting of Heads of National Implementing Agencies
30 July 2007
ADB Headquarters, Manila, Philippines**



**A Statement from
Mr. Francois Bourguignon
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I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all those who have worked hard for the last five years to reach this momentous milestone. The release of the preliminary data for the 2005 round of the ICP for the Asia and Pacific region reflects an essential congruence of interest and expertise in which all who have participated should be justly proud. The task could not have been accomplished without the building of close partnerships between national statistical offices, regional agencies, international organizations and experts in the field.

On behalf of my colleagues at the World Bank and the development community at large, I wish to acknowledge, with grateful thanks, the major contributions made by the Asian Development Bank in coordinating the program in the Asia and Pacific region. The program is particularly important in our developing member countries, where reliable information base for poverty alleviation and economic development policies is badly needed.

We have vested interest in continuing our collaboration and in keeping the program alive. The next milestone would be building on the success achieved in this round and developing a long lasting strategy and a sustainable program, with particular emphasis on bringing poverty specific PPPs to the mainstream of ICP. I am hopeful that a broad consensus behind practical solutions will emerge as a result of our collective efforts and cooperation.

I would like to congratulate you once again for a job well done and wish you a successful data release event.