

TURKMENISTAN

GURBANBERDI ORAZOV, Head of Delegation

I would like on behalf of the Government of Turkmenistan to greet and thank you for fruitful and business-like-cooperation with Turkmenistan.

Because of internal and external policy, which is being implemented in our country under the leadership of the President of Turkmenistan, Saparmurat Turkmenbashi, Turkmenistan confidently moves forward along the way of undertaking radical reforms in all areas of vital activity of the state, and solving immense issues, which are defined in the National Program “Strategy for Socio-Economic reforms in Turkmenistan for the period up to 2020”.

Relying on our own resources and applying the modern world’s experience in economic development, our country gradually transforms from the economy of a raw material exporter into an economy producing final goods.

Large-scale activities continue to be implemented for increasing the economic capacity of the country, developing all fields of the economy, deepening market-oriented reforms, and on this base increasing the wealth of the people.

A step-by-step fulfillment of tasks, determined in the National Programs of socioeconomic development of Turkmenistan, results in a great increase of the volume of industrial and agricultural production, capital construction, and improvement of transportation infrastructure and communications.

For a short time, Turkmenistan succeeded in increasing its export potential by establishing processing complexes. Meantime, Turkmenistan has reduced its dependence on products imported by providing the domestic market with our own products, especially products of petroleum refining, textiles, and food industries. Released currency funds are allocated in order to achieve economic expansion and provide a high social protection for the population.

In 2000, Turkmenistan began to cooperate fruitfully with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and at this time has become the 59th member of ADB.

When in July 2001 a Framework Agreement on Technical Assistance of ADB was signed with ADB, our relationships has been expanding, including involvement in regional projects, both investment and staff training projects.

The ADB Board of Directors approved the Economic Report and interim operational strategy for Turkmenistan.

In Turkmenistan a Liaison Office of ADB was set up, and it is located in Ashhabat City.

In the framework of ADB's main priority operations, which are aimed at promoting economic growth in the countries of Asian-Pacific region, ADB is to provide financing for Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan gas pipeline projects, construction of transport infrastructure which will connect Turkmenistan with Afghanistan, and a statistics database project. Project implementation related to Afghanistan is an urgent issue since presently we are witness to the origin of the renewed state of Afghanistan.

Today, one of the pending issues is to decide in what group of countries Turkmenistan will be presented at ADB's Meeting of Board of Directors. We hope that soon this issue will be solved.

In the course of further cooperation we would like to draw your attention on such issues as the development of transport infrastructure, protection of the environment, provision of safe drinking water, and additional issues related to sanitation, establishment of communications in rural areas, and natural resources management. I believe that these issues will be considered during the discussion and preparation of ADB's operational strategy in Turkmenistan, in the next two or three years, in order to identify a Technical Assistance Project, financed by ADB.

It should be noted that Turkmenistan, as a member country of ADB, adheres to its commitments on the timely payment of membership fees.

In conclusion, I would like to express my confidence that ADB will fruitfully cooperate with our country in the future as well in order to achieve more successes in the socioeconomic development of Turkmenistan.