



KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

Baktygul Jeenbaeva, Governor

Honorable Chair of the Board of Governors!
Honorable Governors and Alternate Governors!
Honorable President of the Asian Development Bank!

On behalf of the Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic and in my personal capacity, let me express my gratitude to the Government of Fiji and to the Asian Development Bank for warm hospitality and high level of organization of today's event.

The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic attaches special importance to cooperation with the Asian Development Bank and highly appreciates the projects being implemented that make a tangible and positive contribution to development of infrastructure and improvement of quality of living of the population of our country.

In this regard, the Kyrgyz Republic supports the long-term Strategy of the Asian Development Bank to achieve a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty.

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to briefly highlight important and promising areas of cooperation with the Asian Development Bank.

In particular, the Kyrgyz Republic, on the basis of national development priorities, confirms its readiness for further cooperation in supporting economic growth and economic diversification, improving access to public and social services and using regional cooperation.

To achieve growth in 2018-2022, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, together with the Asian Development Bank will continue to implement accelerated infrastructure investments in energy and transport sectors, consistently support economic diversification through budget support, which in turn will provide an opportunity to improve institutional reforms to raising efficiency in the sectors.

For improving access to public and social services, the issue of increasing employability of the labor force by expanding access to work skills development, improving water supply and sanitation in selected cities and towns and introducing pilot projects in rural areas will also be considered jointly with the Asian Development Bank.

In this direction, the Asian Development Bank has expressed its readiness to support agricultural services, resilience to climate change and disaster risk reduction with a focus on water resources. Environmental sustainability will be supported by combating the adverse effects of climate change and enhancing resilience to climate change and natural disasters.

The Asian Development Bank will continue its initiative under the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) program, which will enable the Kyrgyz Republic to take

advantage of regional initiatives, including the opportunities arising from joining the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). The Asian Development Bank will provide support for improving governance, increasing gender equality, and in the form of knowledge products to be used in diversification activities. Projects for private sector development will be explored, including in the agribusiness, energy and telecommunications sectors.

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

The Kyrgyz Republic has significant water resources, the main consumer of which is agriculture - more than 90% of the water is used in the agricultural sector of the economy.

There are about 3000 large and small rivers in the country, of which about 20 percent are used. There are also opportunities for a significant increase of the area of irrigated land.

In this regard, development of irrigation is also a promising area of cooperation with the Asian Development Bank with a large multiplier effect - among other things, it addresses issues of food security, poverty alleviation and migration of rural population.

The high-quality implementation of projects in this direction will have a tangible positive social effect and value.

Another equally important area of cooperation could be providing the population with clean drinking water, which is the key to a healthy nation. We intend to ensure maximum access of the population to drinking water supply services, where we also see the Asian Development Bank as an important partner.

The last direction of cooperation, which I would like to raise in my remarks, is the Taza Ko'om project.

"Taza Ko'om" is a program of digital transformation of the country, adopted by our Government.

The goal of this program is to build an open and transparent state that serves the people; it is people-centered program aiming at improving the life, rights, freedoms, health, education, quality of life, and environment for business.

This is a large-scale national project and the support to it by the Asian Development Bank as our long-standing and reliable partner will be very important and necessary.

In conclusion, let me wish success to the work of the Annual Meeting.

I am sure that our countries have great potential and good prospects.

Thank you for attention.