



## **SRI LANKA**

**Mangala Samaraweera, Governor**

Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khalyum, Chairman of the ADB Board of Governors,  
Hon. Takehiko Nakao, President of the ADB,  
Distinguished Governors,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I thank you for giving me the floor at this respectable gathering today, that celebrates 52 years of partnership with Asia and the Pacific region by the Asian Development Bank. As a founding member, Sri Lanka has been working very closely with ADB for over half a century to achieve sustainable development through the various development tools provided by the Asian Development Bank to its member countries.

In the sixth decade of Bank's journey we are amidst the challenges faced by member countries in Asia and Pacific due to the major shifts in the region. We have, therefore faced the requirement of reviewing the role of ADB to address problems faced by the region. I believe that the new Vision of ADB- "Vision 2030" will certainly be formulated to cater to these needs and achieve a prosperous, inclusive, resilient and sustainable Asia and the Pacific.

This year's meeting theme "Prosperity through Unity" is timely chosen. In fact, Mr. Chairman, unity is very much essential among our members to control terrorism also. Global rate of terrorism has sky rocketed and very recently innocent people of my country had to face the repercussions of rapidly growing terrorism activities. Therefore, we should get together to combat terrorism and to ensure prosperity in a peaceful environment.

Mr. Chairman,

Sri Lanka has achieved economic stabilization despite the various challenges faced by the country. Our Government believes in growth led by private enterprises. We expect more private sector operations of ADB in Sri Lanka in view of enhancing private sector participation in our economic activities.

During the last 51 years, Sri Lanka has received over US \$ 9.5 billion for financing development projects of the country. We receive these financial assistance as project and policy based loans, grants and technical assistance since 1968. Sri Lanka's ADB portfolio has shown the best performance in the region from 2013 to 2017 and it remains very active. Our interactions span mainly from the Transport Sector, Energy to Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development. I believe that the partnership between Sri Lanka will continue to grow in the coming years very strongly.

As a founding Member and a strong partner, let me Mr. Chairman, reiterate Sri Lanka's steadfast commitment to a long-lasting engagement with ADB in time to come for the immense benefit of

our own countrymen and millions of others in the Asian Pacific region. I thank you until we meet again in the Republic of Korea next year.