



TAIPEI, CHINA*

Jain-Rong Su, Governor

Mr. Chairman of the Board of Governors, President Nakao, Fellow Governors, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the delegation of Taipei, China, I would like to thank the Government of Fiji for hosting the 52nd Asian Development Bank (ADB) Annual Meeting. I would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to the President, management, and staff of the ADB for your excellent work in making this event happen.

We are grateful to gather here in Fiji, reviewing and celebrating the ADB's progress over the last 51 years. This also marks the first time that a Pacific island country has hosted the annual event of the Bank. We are pleased to note that Fiji has been benefiting from the support of the ADB and enjoyed sustained economic growth for many years. Strides have been made toward promoting inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction through investments in infrastructure, which have demonstrated that the ADB is well-positioned to play a pivotal role in supporting its developing member countries to tackle challenges and explore strategies.

As Asia develops, we commend the ADB for its effort in carrying out Strategy 2030, which actively seeks to respond to the region's changing needs and achieve a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific. Having said that, we also welcome the ADB to showcase its ambition and action toward climate change, disaster resilience, gender equality, and making cities more livable.

The theme of this year's Annual Meeting is "Prosperity through Unity." This makes an apt representation about the ADB's continued leadership in forging strong collaboration and partnership with its member countries, while maintaining an emphasis on regional cooperation and integration in successfully gathering all efforts to foster sustainable, green, gender-responsive, and inclusive economic growth throughout the region.

Given the scale of the challenges, I would like to make reference to how we stand ready to contribute as a knowledge partner, as well as to highlight our efforts in ensuring the development of our policies are in harmony with the goals of the ADB.

Recognizing that Taipei, China as an island is highly vulnerable to hazards from the impacts of climate change, we have introduced the Disaster Prevention and Protection Act and the Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Management Act. The aim is to control and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, with the expectation to be on track to reduce greenhouse gas emission levels to under 50% of our 2005 emissions before the year 2050.

* Changed by Meeting Secretariat.

Regarding gender equality, we are unanimous with the ADB in strengthening women's economic participation and its ensuing benefit to promoting economic growth.

In the “Women, Business and the Law 2019” report by the World Bank, we ranked first in Asia with a score of 91.25. Our efforts stretch back over a decade, and it is encouraging to see that the percentage of female entrepreneurs today has risen to over 36%. In 2016, we jointly launched the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Women and the Economy Subfund with Australia and the U.S. This represents the best example of how we have been supportive of gender equality and women’s independence at the international level.

It is also worth noting that Taipei,China has launched the Forward-Looking Infrastructure Development Program in the second half of 2017. As one of the program's priorities, our strengths in IT and digital technologies are focused on providing a sound basis for greater success in promoting smart cities and further enriching the quality of life and create more livable cities. Hence, with our proven experiences and ability, Taipei,China is confident to share experiences and develop innovative solutions for smart city projects through partnership with our fellow members.

Last but not least, taking this opportunity, I would like to reiterate that Taipei,China is a founding member of the ADB, and we have fully carried out our membership responsibilities. We therefore are strongly against the unilateral change imposed on our membership designation; going forward, we will continue to urge the ADB to acknowledge this fact to ensure that this issue is properly addressed. I will not limit my clarification and would further call on all members to treat each other with respect and equal opportunities in terms of hosting meetings and events of the ADB member.

To conclude, I reaffirm Taipei,China’s steadfast commitment to continue collaboration with the ADB and the Asia Pacific region, as together we address remaining development challenges, and enable an open, burgeoning, and resilient regional economy.

Thank you for your kind attention.