

TAJIKISTAN

Davlatali Said, Governor

Dear Mr. Chairman, Governors, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to have the privilege of addressing the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in this beautiful city of Nadi. I would like to extend my gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Fiji for the warm hospitality and thank ADB management and staff for the wonderful organization of this event.

We consider this meeting as an important step in enhancing mutually beneficial cooperation and development, establishing closer relations both between Tajikistan and ADB, and countries in the region.

In this regard, ADB's efforts to promote regional cooperation and integration, address poverty and reduce inequalities, promote rural development and ensure food security are very important and timely.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me briefly acquaint you with the current situation in the economy of the Republic of Tajikistan and promising areas of its development.

Despite the persisting external threats and risks, macroeconomic stability is ensured in the country, steady economic growth continues, which contributes to poverty reduction.

In 2018, the economy grew at 7.3%, which is due to the progressive development of the sectors of the real sector, as well as the services sector.

Industrial production last year grew by 11.8%, investment in fixed assets increased by 7.8%, agricultural products - by 4.0%, trade volume - by 15.4%. The inflation rate was 5.4%.

The intensification of regional trade and economic cooperation contributed to the fact that the volume of the country's foreign trade turnover in 2018 increased by 6.3%, including with the CIS countries - by 12.5%.

Today, Tajikistan is implementing the National Development Strategy up to 2030, the main strategic objectives and priorities of which are linked to the objectives laid down in the ADB Strategy 2030.

The key objective of the National Development Strategy is the formation of a fundamentally new model of economic development based on the industrialization of the country, the accelerated development of the energy and communication infrastructure, the intensification of investment activities and the stimulation of private sector development. Therefore, it is very important for us to create clear, comfortable and predictable working conditions for domestic and foreign investors.

Big attention in the strategy is paid to the continuation of the phased implementation of reforms in various sectors of the national economy. And in this direction, Tajikistan is working closely with ADB and other development partners.

Overall, the National Development Strategy acts as a program of systemic actions for all government bodies and a platform for interaction with the private sector and civil society.

The consistent implementation of the goals and objectives laid down in the adopted strategic documents will help consolidate sustainable economic growth, create new jobs and increase the level of well-being of the people of Tajikistan.

As already noted, energy and transport are key priorities in the development of Tajikistan. We intend to use the huge hydropower potential of the country not only for its development, but also in the interests of the countries of Central and South Asia.

Based on this, in order to increase electricity production and expand transmission networks in recent years, we have implemented several investment projects in cooperation with ADB and other international partners, and the development of new ones continues.

The implementation of investment projects in the energy sector will ensure the energy security of the country, increase its export opportunities to other countries in the region, as well as contribute to the accelerated development of industries and industrialization.

The implementation of communication infrastructure projects will help to use the country's transit potential, create a sustainable regional and national road network, expand regional trade and economic cooperation, and improve access to international markets.

In order to realize its potential and competitive advantages, Tajikistan stands for close mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation with all countries of the Central Asian region, which in the new conditions of growing global challenges and risks is becoming an important and necessary reality.

Due to the mild climate, beautiful nature, high mountains and peaks, healing water springs, as well as a unique historical and cultural heritage, Tajikistan has good opportunities for the development of tourism. In recent years, the government has paid special attention to the development of this industry and, in confirmation of this, I would like to note that the country has declared 2019-2021 as "Years of rural development, tourism and folk crafts."

Tourism development can be an important area for regional cooperation. Using common cultural and historical roots, we could create a single tourist space between our countries to promote cultural, educational and other types of tourism.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Asian Development Bank has been and continues to be one of the main development partners of Tajikistan and supports development initiatives undertaken by the government. We hope that within the framework of the current ADB Partnership Strategy with Tajikistan for 2016-2020, ADB will continue to play an important role in the implementation of our development priorities.

The ADB Strategy 2030, approved in July 2018, confirms ADB's vision of creating a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia-Pacific region and its mission of helping developing member countries to improve living conditions and quality of life. And in this direction a lot remains to be done.

We, as members of the Asian Development Bank, have high expectations from ADB in responding to specific situations in our countries. We view ADB as a reliable partner that can provide financial support in solving a variety of problems in various areas in developing countries. In the coming decade, Asian countries should focus on making their economies more resilient to economic shocks, social tensions and natural disasters.

ADB is participating in the development of regional energy policy and projects on regional energy trade, in the rehabilitation of regional transport corridors and the development of trade under the Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program, which is the basis for the development of the region.

The countries of the region should also actively engage the private sector in the development of the national economy by creating a favorable business environment and improving the investment climate.

We hope to benefit from this mutually beneficial process by strengthening regional cooperation and creating a strategic partnership for the future.

Only through cooperation and integration our region can take full advantage of all available opportunities and achieve sustainable growth for all.

As a regional bank, ADB should play a vital role in realizing these objectives and make a constructive contribution to the economic development of its developing member countries.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, I would like to assure ADB of the great commitment of the Government of Tajikistan in achieving inclusive economic growth and increasing the level of well-being of the population. We also hope that ADB will continue to remain an active and reliable partner in realizing our vision of the future economic development of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Thank you for your attention.