



**Manila**  
2018  
51<sup>st</sup> ADB ANNUAL MEETING  
3-6 MAY



## **NEW ZEALAND**

**Jon Grayson**, Temporary Alternate Governor

Good morning Honorable Governors and President Nakao. We thank the Philippine Government for their warm hospitality. We also appreciate the hard work of the ADB President, management and staff during the past year.

### **Progress in 2017**

We note that the ADB is effective in delivering development results in challenging circumstances. We welcome the initial evidence of the benefit of the merger of the ADF and OCR. The significant scale-up in approvals and commitments responds to calls from DMCs to strengthen assistance for pressing development needs.

The major opportunity is to strengthen implementation of approved projects. The ADB still has too many projects that rate poorly on sustainability and timely implementation remains a challenge. We look forward to strong implementation of procurement reforms and early work on a dramatic modernization of business process.

### **Strategy 2030**

We welcome the directions signaled in the draft of Strategy 2030. The document reminds us how far the region has come in addressing poverty. At the same time the outstanding challenges are complex and pressing.

We fully support the framework for differentiating clients by their needs. Recognising Small Islands Developing States' specific vulnerability to natural disaster and climate change will allow us to better serve their needs. This gives life to the vision in the ADB charter to have special regard for smaller member countries. We support the proposal to increase ADF base allocation to \$13 million and look forward to further information so that donors can reach a decision during 2018.

We welcome the addition of targets to guide implementation. We would appreciate if more ambitious targets are considered in these areas. On poverty and inclusive growth, the absence of a target is something that needs to be addressed. Our expectation is that ADB will need to significantly scale-up its staff and TA resources to deliver on the emerging directions in Strategy 2030.

### **Partnership**

New Zealand values its partnership with ADB highly. Government recently approved an additional commitment of \$12.5 million to ADF 12. Changes made by the ADB to improve project implementation in the Pacific, including a stronger ADB staff presence in the region, have been very welcome.

New Zealand has signaled a reset of its approach in the Pacific and intends to strengthen its commitment to the region in the coming years. We look forward to working more closely with the ADB.

We look forward to meeting again in Fiji in 2019. This will be a chance to celebrate ADB operations in Fiji and the Pacific region and take stock of the future opportunities. This will be a good opportunity to welcome and support the application by Niue to become an ADB member.  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.