

Statement by Mr. Tetsuya YAMADA
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Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
at the 13th Ministerial Meeting on CAREC
(Bishkek, November 6, 2014)

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), I would like to congratulate all the members of CAREC, secretariat, and its partner organizations on the 13th Ministerial Meeting of CAREC, on which JICA places great importance as a good platform to discuss and promote regional cooperation.

Looking back at the past one year since the last Ministerial Meeting in Astana, we all know that many events have occurred which may have great influences on the economy, society and the people's life in the region, and many of them are something that you might consider as downside risks, rather than upside opportunities.

On the other hand, I am pleased that we could see the regional cooperation among us is steadily deepening and widening in order, for example, to increase connectivity within the region and with other regions to make this region more open, prosperous and lively, thereby improving the resilience against the downside risks that the region is faced with.

On the part of JICA, we also have done a lot of works during the past one year on the projects that may contribute to enhancing regional cooperation. One of the examples is the "International Main Roads Improvement Project" in Kyrgyz Republic, for which we plan to finance through ODA loan. The Project is composed of a component for disaster prevention measures to be applied to Bishkek-Osh road and a component for rehabilitation of Osh-Batken-Isfana road, both of them being important international trunk roads. Also for road sector in some member countries, several projects are being implemented as JICA's technical cooperation projects to improve technical capacity of operation and maintenance of road infrastructure.

Apart from the road sector, importance of the regional cooperation in such areas as trade and border management, environment and climate change, disaster resilience were discussed and confirmed at the "Central Asia plus Japan" dialogue 5th foreign ministers' meeting which was held in July here in Bishkek. JICA is fully committed to formulating and implementing various programs and projects in these directions as well.

Taking this opportunity, let me please reassure all members of CAREC that JICA will continue working closely with CAREC to promote regional cooperation.

Thank you very much.

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