

**13th CAREC Ministerial Conference
Ministerial Meeting
6 November 2014
Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic**

Views from Multilateral Institution Partners and Bilateral Donor Agencies

Statement by ADB

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Asian Development Bank**

Distinguished participants,

ADB's support to the CAREC Program since its inception in 2001 is anchored on the vision of promoting inclusive economic growth for the Region. Regional cooperation and integration is a means to achieve this vision.

Over the past 12 years, ADB has provided more than \$9 billion of loans and grants -- about 38% of the more than \$24 billion of cumulative CAREC investments. In the transport sector, several projects totaling almost \$500 million have been approved so far this year in support of road network development in Mongolia, Azerbaijan, and Pakistan.

In the energy sector, ADB's investments in the CAREC region have amounted to \$1.7 billion. Two ADB initiatives approved this year include the \$400 million sustainable energy sector reform program in Pakistan, and the \$300 million Takhiatash Power Plant Efficiency Improvement project in Uzbekistan. Several technical assistance projects have also been approved in 2014 for CAREC countries, including the study on CAREC power sector financing roadmap.

In trade facilitation, ADB's CAREC Regional Improvement of Border Services project will upgrade facilities at two key border crossing points in Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic and augment investments in single window facilities, to reduce border crossing times and associated costs along CAREC Corridors 3 and 5.

Based on an ADB study, an economic corridor development framework was endorsed at the June 2014 Senior Officials' Meeting in Manila. Under this framework, ADB supported the initiative for piloting the economic corridor development in the Almaty-Bishkek segment of CAREC Corridor 1. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed earlier today between the two cities. A pilot national economic corridor study in Tajikistan will also commence shortly.

In the area of trade policy, ADB in partnership with the IMF supports CAREC countries in implementing the new Trade Policy Strategic Action Plan, especially in three areas which include WTO accession and post-accession adaptation; rationalization of non-tariff measures; and development of trade in services.

ADB continues to accord high importance to knowledge initiatives and institutional strengthening in CAREC. In 2014, ADB has been working closely with the government of the People's Republic of China and provided technical and legal advisory services in all aspects of CAREC Institute's future operation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

ADB has just concluded the Mid-Term Review of its Long-Term Strategic Framework, Strategy 2020, which focuses on innovation and knowledge. Together with CAREC member countries, and in coordination with other CAREC development partners, ADB will continue to develop innovative and client-responsive interventions in the region as part of our enduring commitment to the CAREC Program.

Allow me to conclude by thanking the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic for their hospitality throughout the year, in organizing the Senior Officials' Meeting, the various meetings of the sector committees, and for hosting the CAREC's 13th Ministerial Conference today. As Mongolia prepares to chair CAREC next year, we look forward to working closely with our partners in Ulaanbaatar.

Thank you!

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