

**Welcome Remarks by
Makoto Ojiro
Country Director, Tajikistan Resident Mission
Asian Development Bank**

**International Seminar on Road Sector Development in Tajikistan
"TOWARDS EFFICIENT ROAD TRANSPORT"**

**4 November 2009
Dushanbe, Tajikistan**

Dear Minister Boboev, Ambassador Nakayama, colleagues from the Government and donor agencies, ladies and gentlemen, good morning to all of you.

On behalf of the Asian Development Bank, I would like to welcome all of you to this very timely International Seminar on Road Sector Development in Tajikistan "Towards Efficient Road Transport".

I would like to start by thanking the Ministry of Transport and Communications and Japan International Cooperation Agency for jointly organizing today's seminar. Special thanks go to JICA, which provided financial support for today's event. The seminar offers a forum among policy makers, donors, and civil society to discuss future development of road transport in Tajikistan, including toll road development plans.

For a landlocked country, like Tajikistan, effective and efficient transport infrastructure is vital. ADB is privileged to partner with the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan in rehabilitating and developing the road sector in the country. We have been extensively supporting policy reforms and providing investments in the road sector from the very beginning of our operations in Tajikistan, since 1998. ADB's partnership with Tajikistan in transport and trade facilitation development has been increasingly strengthened by the participation of Tajikistan in the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program. Total amount of approved assistance under ADB projects to the road sector of Tajikistan comes at about \$160 million. This includes the completed Dushanbe-Kurgan-Tyube-Dangara-Kulyab road rehabilitation project, four ongoing projects to rehabilitate the Dushanbe - Kyrgyz Border - People's Republic of China road corridor; and a number of technical assistance and grant projects funded by the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction. Transport sector remains the priority of our operations in the country, and ADB will continue its assistance in this sector.

Today's seminar will focus on Tajikistan's policy and strategy for road sector development, plans for the introduction of toll roads, and trade and connectivity issues in Central Asia. Spain's experience in road maintenance through public-private partnership, and toll road development in Japan and the People's Republic of China will be also discussed.

Once again, welcome to the seminar. I wish you all successes in today's deliberations.

Thank you for your kind attention.