

Mr Prime Minister,  
President Nakao,  
Honorable Ministers,  
Dear Conference participants, colleagues and partners,

I would like to thank you for your invitation to the 13<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC). I would like to thank the government of Kyrgyz Republic for the wonderful hospitality and the perfect organization of the meeting.

Since the 11<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference, which was held in 2012 in Wuhan, it is AFD's third participation in such a selected gathering.

We are convinced that CAREC is a very important platform for advancing cooperation activities between its members as well as with bilateral financial institutions for the future development the region.

AFD is launching its activities in Central Asia to support green and inclusive growth, including: transportation, energy efficiency, clean and renewable energy, water, sanitation, urban development, waste management and agriculture.

Having established a fruitful cooperation with ADB in the larger Asia region, AFD is willing to extend the successful joint experience in Central Asia.

Let me review some of the main developments since last year's meeting:

**Concerning Partnership ADB- AFD :**

- This strategic partnership that started in 1997 resulting in co-financing over 30 projects and amounting to over \$30 billion. It has demonstrated to be both well structured, and adaptable to the changing needs of our partner countries;
- Our PPTA trust-fund has been refilled;
- Next annual meeting in Baku could be the opportunity to highlight new co-financed projects

**Concerning AFD's Strategy :**

- Adoption of a new Strategy for Asia 2013-2016. Our mandate for Asia is focused on "green and inclusive growth" with differentiated partnerships and support of French expertise.
- 70 % of projects financed by the AFD must encompass a co-benefit on climate in the wake of COP 21.

**Concerning our country operations:**

- Discussions concerning the transport sector in Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan
- Preparation of a project concerning solid Waste Management in Uzbekistan
- Focus on the hydropower sector in Pakistan
- Focus on agriculture and health in Afghanistan

- Focus on biodiversity, energy and water in China
- Prospection in Mongolia

I am convinced that our participation in this ministerial conference will give an opportunity to strengthen relations with the governments and other donors active in the region.

Thank you for your attention,