

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

I would like to thank you for your invitation to the 12<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC). I would like to thank the government of Kazakhstan for the wonderful hospitality and the perfect organization of the meeting with the support of the Secretariat.

Last year, I had the privilege to take part in 11<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference that was held 30 October – 1 November, 2012 in Wuhan. It was AFD's first participation in such a gathering.

It confirmed our belief that CAREC is an important platform for advancing cooperation activities between its members as well as with bilateral financial institutions for the future development of 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 ADB- AFD partnership :**

- This strategic partnership 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;
- Last May, the “Framework Co-financing Agreement” between ADB and AFD has been renewed and signed for the next period of 2013-2016; likewise, a PPTA trust-fund has been renewed and refilled;
- Next annual meeting in Astana could be the opportunity to highlight new co-financed projects

**Concerning AFD's Strategy :**

The recent (July 2013) inter-ministerial committee on international cooperation for development decided in particular that :

- Our mandate for Asia is focused on “green and inclusive growth”;
- AFD is now able to intervene in every developing country (DAC definition) and the precise geographical scope will be periodically revised;
- 50 % of projects financed by AFD must encompass a co-benefit on climate;
- a strategy “gender and development” shall be adopted for the period 2013-2017.

**Concerning our operations in CAREC member countries :**

- signature of a MOU with Uzbekistan in May
- discussions concerning the urban transport sector in Kazakhstan
- new perspectives in the hydropower sector after the signing of a new agreement with IMF in Pakistan
- Focus on agriculture in Afghanistan
- Focus on multi-modal transport, biodiversity, energy and water in China

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,