

**FOURTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE**  
**On Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation**  
**Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic**  
**5-6 November 2005**

**Welcoming speech (Opening)**  
**by the head of the Kyrgyz Republic delegation**  
**Mr. Akylbek Japarov, Minister of Economy and Finance**

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

Let me declare the Forth Ministerial Conference of Central Asian Economic Cooperation Program open.

I am particularly honored to note that the following distinguished guests participate in our conference:

Mr. Haruhiko Kuroda, President of the Asian Development Bank,  
Mr. Shiego Katsu, Vice President of the World Bank,  
Mr. Joseph Eichenberg, Vice President of the Asian Development Bank  
Ms. Brigita Shmognerova, Vice President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development  
Mr. Felix Sharshenbaevich Kulov, Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Let me welcome the official delegations of governments of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, People's Republic of China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. I would also like to express gratitude to our financial partners represented by Asian Development Bank, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Islamic Development Bank, UN Development Program, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and all invitees of the present Conference for participation and support in implementation of the CAREC Program.

It is particularly pleasant to note that the program on development of the Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation, initiated in 2002 is gradually growing up to such large scale offering big prospects of regional economic growth and resolution of the poverty reduction issue. It is not secret the Central Asia is famous for its deep ancient trade traditions going far back to the times of the Great Silk Road. Now it is appropriate time to

enhance regional cooperation by developing good neighborly trade relations, implementation of inter-state large infrastructure projects, financial and economic relations, as well as addressing many acute issues in Central Asia.

I would also like to point out a positive step in implementation of the CAREC Program which is development of the Comprehensive Action Plan. This mechanism will allow us to keep an eye on realization of regional cooperation projects.

The progress reached in key sectors of the CAREC Program noted during the Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting in Bishkek gives grounds to feel confidence about successful conduct of today's conference, as well as about reaching goals and objectives of the CAREC Program.