Statement by Mr. Masaru HONMA Director for Central Asia European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) at the 13th Ministerial Meeting on CAREC Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic 6 November 2014

Introduction

The EBRD has been active in supporting regional transport, power sector connectivity, trade facilitation through banking sector, enhancing cross-border investment, as well as financing export oriented private enterprises.

Kazakhstan

The Bank has been investing in the Kazakh power sector for over 15 years. The Bank works with a range of clients including Kazakhstan Electricity Grid Operating Company (KEGOC), Samruk-Energy, the Central-Asian Power and Electricity Corporation (CAEPCo) and foreign investor - AES. The Bank has financed a number of projects aimed to upgrade the country's power infrastructure from generation to electricity transmission and distribution.

The Bank has been active in Kazakhstan's road sector since 2009, financing part of South-West Corridor project and Shymkent – Tashkent road rehabilitation plan.

Krgyzstan

In Kyrgyzstan, the Bank along with the WB and EU financed Osh-Isfana Road project back in 2009 and has been pursuing a road administration reform through a policy dialogue and TC project which is on-going. The Bank is looking to finance measures to reduce losses in distribution and possibly support rehabilitation of existing HPPs. The Bank also supports renewable energy framework to develop small hydropower as well as general energy efficiency investments by SMEs and population through financial sector by providing a combined package of financing, capital grants and TC supported by EU IFCA grant funding.

Tajikistan

The Bank made its first loan in the power and energy sector in 2011 for the Sugd Losses reduction project (installation of modern electricity meters, meter reading and billing systems). In 2014 the Bank extended its largest financing in the country to date for rehabilitation of the Qairokkum Hydro Power Plant. Future projects financed by the Bank might include network losses reduction, billing, rehabilitation of HPPs and support of mini-hydro power stations.

The Bank along with ADB and Tajik Government financed rehabilitation of Dushanbe – Uzbekistan border road and provided a loan to Khujand International Airport following after the financing of Dushanbe airport rehabilitation. We also have provided finance for road maintenance facility upgrading.

Azerbaijan

In Azerbaijan, the Bank has been financing a regional road reconstruction and upgrading programme since 2011. This includes improvements in road safety, greater involvement of the private sector in maintenance, construction and more reliable and better access to local markets and export routes for farmers and food processors.

In the power sector in 2009 the bank financed the rehabilitation of a power station in Migechevir, converting six of the eight turbines from oil to gas and in the process generated carbon credits via the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

Turkmenistan

In Turkmenistan, a strategic priority of the EBRD is to support the Turkmen economy's international integration into the global economy and in this context the Bank may consider supporting regional transport operations particularly for projects with a sound business rational and which are integrated into the CAREC transport corridors or the EU's TRACECA programme.

Mongolia

In Mongolia, the Bank has been active in the power sector since 2012, with debt and equity financing of the Salkhit 50MW wind farm, demonstrating existing adequate legal and institutional framework for further private investments in the power sector. The Bank will also support private sector participation in the transport sector, exploring the possibility to finance infrastructure facilitation exports (railways) and regional integration (airport).

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Bank is scaling up of its activities and seeking further contribution for regional economic co-operation in Central Asia.