



## Welcome Remarks

Mr. Tyrrell Duncan  
Technical Advisor (Transport), Asian Development Bank

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1. Distinguished participants, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen.
2. On behalf of the Asian Development Bank, I would like to welcome the delegations from the ten CAREC member countries, and participating development partners to this CAREC Road Safety Workshop. Also, a warm welcome to our guests from Georgia, who are participating in this meeting as observers.
3. As all of us know, road safety is a global epidemic, and certainly one that affects CAREC countries heavily. Over 60,000 deaths and 600,000 injuries occur annually in the CAREC region, many of whom are vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, cyclists, and motorcyclists. This causes adverse social consequences and generates large economic losses.
4. Recognizing this challenge, CAREC countries embedded road safety as a key priority in the Transport and Trade Facilitation Strategy 2020 (or TTFS 2020), endorsed in 2013. In endorsing the TTFS 2020, CAREC countries also agreed to prepare a regional road safety strategy, and for road safety features to be integrated into each CAREC road project.
5. The wish of CAREC countries to further improve road safety was reconfirmed last September, when your Ministers of the CAREC program launched a high-level “Commitment to Road Safety” at the 14<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference, in Ulaanbaatar.
6. To support CAREC countries in advancing the road safety agenda, ADB, in its role as the CAREC Secretariat, prepared and approved a regional technical assistance of \$1.5 million in late 2014. Road safety experts mobilized under this TA have been working with you over the past year, to:
  - a. Undertake in-depth country consultations; and
  - b. Prepare an initial framework for the road safety strategy, which will be the basis of our discussions for today and tomorrow.
7. The next two days are designed to truly be a “work” shop, where we invite all countries to work together to formulate the CAREC road safety strategy, in a concrete and practical way.
8. We are delighted to welcome you, the practitioners and policy makers from each CAREC country, who have the power to make CAREC corridors safer, thereby saving countless lives.
9. Thank you for your attention and I wish you all a highly successful Meeting.