

**10th CAREC Ministerial Meeting
23 November 2011
Baku, Azerbaijan**

Presentation of CAREC 2020 to the CAREC Ministers

**Mr. Xiaoyu Zhao
Vice President, Operations Group 1
Asian Development Bank**

Honorable Ministers:

Allow me to present for your consideration the new ten-year strategic framework for the CAREC Program, or CAREC 2020.

CAREC 2020 builds on the Comprehensive Action Plan or CAP, which Ministers endorsed at the Fifth Ministerial Conference held in Urumqi in 2006. CAREC 2020 adopted the same vision and goal of CAP of “Good Neighbors, Good Partners, Good Prospects” and “Development Through Economic Cooperation”. CAREC 2020 reaffirms the Program’s emphasis on Focus, Action, and Results.

As CAREC Secretariat, the Asian Development Bank is pleased to have assisted in the drafting of CAREC 2020 in close consultation with member countries and other partners. The Ministerial Retreat held in Cebu last year provided strategic guidance in formulating this important document. The Senior Officials’ Meeting in June and the one yesterday closely

reviewed the final draft and recommended your consideration of CAREC 2020.

Allow me to briefly summarize the key features of the proposed new ten-year strategic framework for the CAREC Program.

Under CAREC 2020, two strategic objectives for 2011-2020—expanded trade and improved competitiveness—have been crafted to strengthen and accelerate the implementation of the CAREC Program through a more well-defined set of operational and time-bound priorities. These operational priorities include the four priority sectors, namely, transport, trade facilitation, energy, and trade policy; along with economic corridor development, the CAREC Institute, and second tier areas.

The sector coordinating committees have formulated an indicative medium-term priority projects or MTPP list, which is integral to CAREC 2020. This list, which CAREC senior officials considered yesterday, represents projects and initiatives that are both national and regional priorities. The MTPP will be further reviewed and updated annually by the sector coordinating committees.

Country ownership of projects and initiatives and their mainstreaming into the member countries' national development plans are key features of CAREC 2020. National and regional institutional arrangements for CAREC will be strengthened to promote focused and accelerated implementation of the strategy, enable the resolution of related issues, and allow a stronger interface with the private sector.

Existing partnerships with and among the multilateral institutions will be strengthened, and partnerships will be broadened to include other development partners, such as bilateral donor agencies and the private sector. Tomorrow's CAREC Development Partners' Forum will be the first step toward enhancing these partnerships with a view to mobilizing much needed resources for CAREC 2020.

Finally, project progress will continue to be closely monitored by CAREC's sector committees, and the CAREC Program's development effectiveness will be assessed annually by the senior officials using the CAREC results framework.

Honorable Ministers:

I submit for your consideration and endorsement, the new ten-year strategic framework for the CAREC Program – CAREC 2020.