

**Closing Remarks at the 5th Ministerial Conference on
Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation**

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The 5th Ministerial Conference (MC) on Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC), through the joint efforts made by all the representatives, has fully accomplished its agenda and will soon draw down its curtain. All the participating parties have proactively and practically conducted full discussions over a series of topics and put forward many constructive suggestions, ensuring the attainment of the expected achievements and advancing our cooperation greatly further.

First, each member country has reiterated its support and commitment to deepening regional cooperation, and agreed unanimously on the adoption of “Good Neighbors, Good Partners and Good Prospects” as a long-term vision of CAREC, defining the direction for future cooperation. Second, the 5th MC reviewed the report of the Senior Officials’ Meeting, debriefed cooperation progress of the priority sectors, and approved the cooperation plans for 2007. Third, the Conference has endorsed the Comprehensive Action Plan, marking another milestone in our cooperation. And last, it has agreed on expanding the cooperation scope to several aspects of common interest for the member countries, thus creating favorable conditions for opening new cooperation vista.

The achievements attained through joint efforts last year have made all of us proud and strengthened our confidence in promoting cooperation. We have also realized that we are facing grave challenges in many areas and still have a long way to go. However, “Where there is a will, there is a way.” I believe that as long as we are active and pragmatic and commit to the principles of mutual respect and reaching consensus through consultation, we can overcome all the difficulties and fully harness the huge cooperation potentials.

Finally, I would like to thank, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, all the representatives for your outstanding performance and the ADB for its great contribution to the success of the meeting. I would also like to thank the interpreters and logistic staff for your hard work.

Thank you.