

**Fourth Ministerial Conference on  
Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation  
5-6 November 2005, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic**

**Opening Statement by  
V. Shageev  
Russian Federation**

The Russian delegation welcomes the participants of the 4-th CAREC Ministerial Conference and expresses its confidence that the issues discussed here will be resolved and implemented in the nearest future.

“Development through Cooperation” is a pragmatic motto and challenge, and nobody denies that one can do much more through regional efforts with the help of international financial institutes than fight alone for the prosperity of one’s state. As it has been rightly noted during these days, Russia has been historically connected with the region by thousands of economic ties which were not abruptly torn in 1991 though have become somewhat weakened in the past years. As it is known, we have undertaken efforts to coordinate actions in trade and economics and in other spheres with the countries of the region and in the framework of the EurAsEC (CACO), and recently the most actively within SCO. CAREC is another regional structure, and through joint efforts with the above mentioned organizations one can do really a lot for the peoples of not only the CA region but also for all the states – participants of those formations. We believe that coordination of activities should be improved to avoid duplication and wasting of funds by every organization allocated for the same goals. We think that working groups could be established both in CAREC and in EurAsEC acting jointly with CACO, and undoubtedly in SCO, which would review proposed development projects in the region and recommend their organizations’ management, where necessary, to act on a joint basis. Then we would have fewer problems in the programs implementation in the key spheres of the region – energy, transport, and trade.

Russia is so far not a full member of your organization but it is interested in the CAREC programs and considers a possibility of its full participation in the future.

Let me wish you success in your hard work and express confidence that with such a highly professional ADB team and Secretariat, CAREC will be able to achieve excellent results in the nearest future.