

**5th Ministerial Conference on
Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation
20 October 2006**

Urumqi, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China

Opening Statement and Views on the CAREC Comprehensive Action Plan

**Mr. Kh.Bekhat, State Secretary,
Ministry Of Foreign Affairs
(Mongolia)**

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates and Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation, on behalf of the Government of Mongolia, to the Government of People's Republic of China and the Government of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region for the gracious hospitality and hosting this important event. Also let me join my fellow delegates in thanking and congratulating the Asian Development Bank and especially the CAREC Unit for the excellent arrangements for this 5th Ministerial Conference.

As we are all aware, and we would like to reiterate that regional cooperation has become one of the important factors of economic growth. In this regard, we are glad to notice that representatives of member countries and of MIs, together with other international and regional organizations are here today attending the MC, reconfirming their commitments to noble objectives and principles of the CAREC. We are here today to write a new chapter, the more mature chapter for the CAREC. The very moment of the day, of MC, is now the consideration and endorsement of CAREC Comprehensive Action Plan and Strategic Framework for the more efficient and effective future regional economic cooperation.

We are all together formulating the Comprehensive Action Plan and the Strategic Framework. Together with its (1) goals, objectives, and expected outputs and outcomes; (2) the four pillars of activity (knowledge/capacity building, regional infrastructure networks, trade/investment/business development, and regional public goods); (3) priority investments and initiatives; (4) preliminary performance indicators; and last but not least (5) a two tier approach to broadening and deepening the scope of the Program (in which first tier work remains focused on the CAREC priority sectors while special projects can be undertaken as second tier work). The four pillars of the CAP will enable us to address common challenges in close cooperation sharing the best common practices. Among these pillars we would like to draw your attention to the regional infrastructure network development. Two days earlier at the Business Development Forum held here in Urumqi private sector representatives raised this issue and expressed their concern over their needs and challenges to be addressed toward the infrastructure advancement as a basis for the fruitful regional cooperation. The Government of Mongolia attaches to this issue if not greater but not less importance to that extent as business community considers it to be.

In relation to this, we are sure that the program will be flexible and compatible, and in alignment with national development strategies of member countries, creating a sound institutional framework for mutually beneficial economic cooperation. Aside to this we are very much pleased of the idea of establishing the CAREC Institute which no doubt will play a crucial role in promoting appropriate initiatives on a timely basis.

Lastly, we believe that outcomes of this Ministerial Conference will make a contribution to the strengthening of mutual understanding and desire to work together and

will bring sound achievements and noticeable progress in economic growth and poverty reduction in each of the member countries.

Let me wish all of you every success in implementation of the Comprehensive Action Plan and making a noticeable progress in regional cooperation the years to come.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.