

Asian Development Bank

# **Sustainability**

# **Report**

# **2009**

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# Asian Development Bank Members



Boundaries are not necessarily authoritative  
Lao PDR = Lao People's Democratic Republic

S O U T H E R N O



# The President's Message

I am pleased to present this second Sustainability Report prepared by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Much has happened in the 2 short years since we issued our first such report. The Asia and Pacific region has continued its rapid economic growth. However, rising costs from environmental degradation and the region's contributions to climate change are increasingly recognized. Moreover, publication of this report comes at a time when the region is facing severe impacts from a global economic downturn. If improvements in prosperity are to continue, the region needs to weather the current economic storm while also changing course to more a environment-friendly development path.

To ensure that ADB's efforts are fully cognizant of and responsive to these and other emerging development challenges facing our region, in

institutions. Strategy 2020 reaffirms our mission of eliminating poverty in the region and sets out ways in which we will adjust our operations to pursue this goal most effectively.

Under Strategy 2020, we have redirected our attention to three critical areas:

- making economic growth inclusive, to assure that the disadvantaged (often women) and poor are not left out of development progress;
- promoting environmentally sustainable growth, to ensure that current and future generations are not deprived of their natural heritage and a healthy quality of life; and
- strengthening regional integration by fostering mutually beneficial cooperation among the countries of our region and the institutions that finance their development.

To this end, we are channeling our resources

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