

## ADB BUILDS CAPACITY OF TAJIK OFFICIALS IN PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

**DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN** (21 June 2010) – The Asian Development Bank (ADB), under the <u>Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation</u> (CAREC) Program, is conducting a Public-Private Partnership Workshop in Dushanbe on 21 June 2010.

About 50 Tajikistan government officials from various ministries and agencies are taking part in the workshop.

"Many countries now recognize the need to adopt public-private partnership approaches for infrastructure development in view of large financing gaps between investment requirements and available public financial resources," said Makoto Ojiro, ADB's Country Director for Tajikistan, who opened the seminar. "The whole area of public-private partnership is still challenging and complex, thus, capacity building to support public-private partnership is essential."

The workshop's focus is on applications, structure, and implementation of public-private partnership. Hong Wang, Principal CAREC Coordinator, Arthur Smith, Chairman of the US National Council for Public-Private Partnership, and ADB's Senior Finance Specialist Elaine Glennie are in Dushanbe to facilitate the workshop.

The initiative to promote public-private partnership was endorsed at CAREC 7<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference in November 2008. Three workshops were conducted last year in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and Mongolia, and three are planned for this year - in Dushanbe, Ashgabat, and Tashkent.

CAREC is an ADB-supported initiative to encourage economic cooperation in Central Asia. Initiated in 1997, the program is focused on regional initiatives in transport, trade facilitation, trade policy, and energy critical to improving the economic performance of the region and the livelihoods of all people—especially the poor.

Tajikistan joined ADB in 1998, and to date has received over \$560 million in concessional loans, grants and technical assistance from ADB. In 2010, ADB plans to provide \$150m in grant assistance to Tajikistan. The assistance program is expected to support energy and private sector development.

ADB, based in Manila, is dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific region through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration. Established in 1966, it is owned by 67 members – 48 from the region. In 2009, it approved a total of \$16.1 billion in financing operations through loans, grants, guarantees, a trade finance facilitation program, equity investments, and technical assistance projects. ADB also mobilized cofinancing amounting to \$3.2 billion.

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