

## **ADB ADVISORY COMMITTEE: MEETING IN TOKYO**

1. On Friday 20 April 2007, the first meeting of the Advisory Council (AC) in 2007 took place in Tokyo at the ADB Institute (ADBI)<sup>1</sup>.
2. At the AC meeting, the Dean, ADBI (Dean), Masahiro Kawai, set out his visions for ADBI to become a leading center for the creation and sharing of knowledge on development in Asia and the Pacific. ADBI conducts research and capacity building and training (CBT) activities that contribute to ADB's over-arching objective of poverty reduction. The aim of ADBI is to look ahead to the next 10-20 years and focus on Asia's medium-to long-term development issues of strategic importance. ADBI will emphasize quality by pursuing excellence, ensure the relevance of research and CBT by targeting the right audiences on highly-relevant development challenges and policy issues, and maximize impact.
3. The Dean clarified that ADBI plans to focus its research activities during the next several years on infrastructure, 10 Years after the Crisis, regional cooperation, and other strategically important issues. ADBI's flag ship study on "Infrastructure and Regional Cooperation" will involve hardware aspects of infrastructure, as well as governance and other software issues. This flagship study and the ADB HQ-led "Emerging Regionalism: 10 Years after the Crisis" project will involve enhanced cooperation and coordination between ADBI and ADB, in particular with ADB's other knowledge departments.
4. ADBI will seek to ensure quality, relevance and impact of its research activities and to involve policy makers in the flagship study and other activities. It will also start streamlining its research activities, selecting research projects from strategic perspectives, and sharpen analysis on cross-country perspectives.
5. The overall purpose of ADBI's CBT activities is to help improve the capacity of ADB's developing member countries (DMCs) to manage their economies for sustainable economic development through formulation and implementation of national policies, strengthening of national institutions, and cooperation with other countries. Targets are high-level and middle-level government officials. ADBI has begun to strengthen the synergies between research and CBT activities.
6. ADBI continues to give great weight to the effective dissemination of its knowledge products, through the ADB website, publications, and other means. It is committed to collaborating closely with other international organizations and stakeholders, and with the DMCs to understand their development challenges.

AC members provided many valuable suggestions regarding the strategic focus and activities of ADBI which are given careful consideration. They endorsed the strategic visions of the Dean and the new time plan for the flagship study proposed by him.

The next AC meeting will take place in November 2007 in Manila.

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<sup>1</sup> The meeting was attended by Masahiko Aoki, Ifzal Ali, Victor Frank, Jr., Eric Girardin, Ajit K. Jain, Andrew MacIntyre. One member of the AC (Li Yong) was unable to attend.