

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

On Monday, 29 October, 2007, the second meeting of the Advisory Council (AC) in 2007 took place at the ADB Headquarters in Manila<sup>1</sup>.

### **ADB STRATEGIC ISSUES**

AC members endorsed the strategic directions for the Institute which had been formulated by the Dean, ADBI and supported his vision for ADBI to become a leading center for the creation and sharing of knowledge on development in Asia and Pacific. Members stated that the proposed Work Program for the period from 2008-2010 represented a fair balance of thematic areas and cross-cutting issues; they endorsed that program with the understanding that certain adjustments may become necessary to align it with ADB's new Long-Term Strategy and Framework (LTSF). They concurred with the Dean that ADBI will focus on medium or long-term perspectives and look ahead for the next 10 to 20 years.

### **RESEARCH**

Members endorsed the proposed approach for formulating ADBI's research activity and the proposed research program for the next three years including the flagship study on "Infrastructure and Regional Cooperation". They suggested that ADBI should be innovative by looking at emerging development issues in Asia and the Pacific such as environment, energy and urbanization; the scope of the flagship study needs to go beyond physical infrastructure, including environmental issues. The AC members supported studies that include ASEAN, India and the People's Republic of China (PRC), considering that in 2006, 69 percent of Asia's growth came from these countries.

### **Capacity Building and Training**

AC members expressed their support for an enhanced collaboration between research and CBT departments and the proposed CBT activities set forth in the ADBI Work Program. They recommended inviting past participants in ADBI training activities who are well qualified to be trainers or resource speakers in future CBT activities.

### **Dissemination**

The AC members commended the Institute for the high quality of the ADBI website. They underlined its crucial importance in disseminating activities of ADBI and suggested that ADBI should develop new online tools for research activities and establish an alumni program for former participants in ADBI research and capacity building and training activities. AC members expressed their support for the continuation of the "Developing Asia Journalism Awards" (DAJA) and CBT for regional journalists.

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