

ADBI ADVISORY COMMITTEE: MEETING IN TOKYO

1. On Friday, 25 April 2008, the first meeting of the Advisory Council (AC) in 2008 took place at the site of ADBI in Tokyo. The meeting was attended by Masahiko Aoki, Eric Girardin, Ajit K. Jain, Andrew MacIntyre and Ifzal Ali. Two members of the AC (Victor Frank, Jr. and Li Yong) were unable to attend. They submitted comments in writing.

2. The main focus of the AC meeting was on the new strategic priority themes and directions of ADBI. In addition, AC members discussed the work programs of the Research and Capacity Building and Training (CBT) departments and reviewed ADBI's outreach activities. They expressed their appreciation that most of their recommendations made during previous AC meetings had been adopted by ADBI.

3. AC members concurred with the Dean, ADBI on the need for ADBI's priority areas to be consistent with ADB's new Long Term Strategic Framework (LTSF) (*Strategy 2020* of ADB) adopted on 8 April 2008. They agreed that poverty reduction should be the overarching goal of all ADBI activities. Under this overarching goal, and while emphasizing the importance of private sector development as an area of focus of ADBI, AC members broadly supported the proposed three new strategic priority areas of ADBI:

- (1) Inclusive and sustainable growth
 - a. Infrastructure
 - b. Financial sector development
 - c. Environment and climate change
- (2) Regional cooperation and integration
 - a. Monetary and financial cooperation
 - b. Trade and investment cooperation
- (3) Governance for policies and institutions
 - a. Economic policy management
 - b. Public sector reform

4. AC members noted substantial progress in the implementation of ADBI's research program for 2008 and expressed unanimous support for the major new research activities which had been proposed by the Research Department. ADBI should be leading rather than following in identifying and analyzing emerging development issues in the region. It should be "a laboratory for new ideas" and its products should be innovative and unique, different from those of other institutions.

5. AC members stressed the need to align ADBI's CBT program with the proposed new priority themes and areas of focus. They stated that it was important for CBT to engage in activities in the area of governance for policies and institutions. In addition to promoting adoption of appropriate policies and best practices, attention should also be paid to effective implementation of recommended policies and best practices. Monitoring and assessment of CBT activities was of substantial importance.

6. AC members appreciated the outreach and dissemination efforts being undertaken by ADBI, in particular, the increased number of publications already published in 2008 and in the 2008-2009 pipeline, and the increased web traffic.