

**Statement to the Pledging Conference  
Asian Development Bank  
Beijing, 18 January 2006**

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to thank the organizers for inviting the Asian Development Bank to this important meeting and providing the opportunity for pledging our support to the response to avian and human influenza. We appreciate the leadership provided by the World Bank and EC in organizing this meeting. We would particularly like to express my appreciation to the Government of the People's Republic of China for their generous hospitality and extensive preparation for this important conference. Participation by Premier Wen Jiabao, Ministers Gao Qiang and Du Qinglin, and Vice Ministers Li Yong and Qiao Zonghuai demonstrates the high level commitment made by the PRC as a partner in combating avian and human pandemic influenza.

ADB would like to confirm its earlier commitment to allocate \$68 million of grant resources and **up to \$400 million** of loan resources, if needed and requested by our developing member countries, for supporting a response to avian and human pandemic influenza.

We believe that ADB is well placed to make significant contributions in the Asia and Pacific region, due to our regional presence, our close working relationship with WHO and FAO, and our earlier experience in dealing with SARS.

We consider support for regional level activities as our major strength. The epidemic has important regional and trans-boundary dimensions. While strong country level actions are important and should be supported, we believe, the response to the epidemic will be incomplete without an equally strong regional approach that focuses on regional cooperation in areas such as sharing of information, surveillance, training and personnel.

Specifically, ADB will also support two regional projects. The first project, for **\$30 million**, was approved in November 2005. The Project covers Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam and will be implemented jointly with WHO. It provides long-term support to surveillance systems and strengthened national and regional response capacity. ADB is also preparing a second regional project, for **\$38 million**, including \$10 million in co-financing from the Government of Japan. This project will cover all ADB member countries and will focus specifically on the short- and medium-term needs. The Project will be use flexible financing mechanisms to allow for quick allocation and disbursements of funds to needy countries. It will be jointly implemented with FAO and WHO.

We realize that a human influenza pandemic may or may not take place in the near term. We also realize that H5N1 virus may not be the source of the next pandemic. However, we acknowledge that a strong and coordinated international response can't be delayed, and ADB stands ready to join the ongoing international efforts to combat avian and human influenza.

We believe that an effective coordination mechanism at the country, regional and global levels will be key to success in our joint fight against the epidemic. We keenly look forward to the discussions in this conference and in the follow-up meeting tomorrow, especially those related to the financing framework. These will help us in better positioning our support to add maximum value to the international response.

Thank you very much.

<b>ADB Support for Avian Influenza</b>			
<b>Instrument</b>	<b>Coverage</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<b>Lending facilities</b>	<b>All ADB Developing Member countries</b>	<b>Up to \$300 million</b>	<b>upon country's request</b>
<b>Savings and reallocation of ongoing projects</b>	<b>All ADB Developing Member countries</b>	<b>\$100 million</b>	<b>upon country's request</b>
<b>Grants: new resources mobilized</b>			
1. Regional Communicable Diseases Control Project	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam	\$30 million	Approved on 21 November 2005
2. Regional Technical Assistance on Communicable Diseases	Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines	\$1.2 million	Approved on 18 January 2006
3. Prevention and Control of Avian Influenza in Asia and the Pacific	All ADB Developing Member countries	\$38 million	Expected to be approved in March 2006
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$469.2 million</b>	