



Asian Development Bank

7 March 2011

Ms. Rachel Turner
Director
International Finance Division
Department for International Development
1 Palace Street, London, SW1E 5HE

Dear Ms. Turner,

Multilateral Aid Review — Assessment of ADB

Thank you for sharing with us the results of DFID's assessment of ADB and the Asian Development Fund (ADF) as part of the Multilateral Aid Review. We found the review's findings generally balanced and constructive and the process helpful in building our mutual understanding. We are pleased to see that ADB received the highest rating "very good" in your assessment of the overall value for money of the multilateral organizations for UK aid. We note that ADB scored well in nine out of the 10 assessed components and had one area where we scored lower, on gender equality under attention to cross-cutting issues.

On gender equality, we would firstly like to thank DFID for its continued support for ADB's efforts in promoting this important issue. ADB has strived to increase its focus on gender equality in operations in recent years and this is showing good results. The proportion of total ADB operations supporting gender mainstreaming has increased from 23% in 2007 to 42% in 2010, exceeding our 2012 target of 40%. For ADF-funded operations, the proportion has risen from 29% in 2007 to 53% in 2010, also surpassing our target of 50%. Contributing to this result is strengthened ADB staff resources for implementation. Today, we have 14 dedicated gender experts in 12 countries and eight staff in the headquarters across the regional departments and the regional and sustainable development department. Further, ADB has recently appointed a senior advisor on gender to champion gender equality at the management level.

We would like to share with you one comment on the methodology used to construct the "Focus on Poor Countries" index. We feel that this methodology could be improved by removing the current bias in favor of agencies working in poorer regions such as Africa. DFID may consider a new methodology that controls for the externally imposed constraints for agencies and aims to assess how effectively an agency is targeting its resources within its mandated region. On gender equality, we also hope that future assessments can take into account the new developments and progress that ADB has made in this area.

We take this opportunity to thank our colleagues at DFID for the strong collaborative relationship between our two agencies in our joint fight against poverty.

Sincerely,

Kazu Sakai
Director General