



"Mobilizing Aid for Trade: Focus Asia and the Pacific"

**Closing Remarks by
President Haruhiko Kuroda
Asian Development Bank**

**20 September 2007
ADB Headquarters, Mandaluyong City**

Your Excellency Prime Minister Sevele, Director-General Lamy, Secretary-General Supachai, Honorable Ministers, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

Thank you all for participating in what I believe have been extremely fruitful discussions on how to mobilize Aid for Trade in Asia and the Pacific. I think the networking that has been done outside the formal sessions has been equally worthwhile, allowing us to share experiences on what may work as the Aid for Trade initiative moves into its next stage. I am particularly grateful to President Macapagal-Arroyo, the Philippine Department of Trade and Industry, and World Trade Organization Director-General Lamy for their invaluable contributions.

It is important to remember that Aid for Trade can not be a substitute for the Doha Round, but is a complement to what we hope will be a successful completion of the negotiations. We have learned a great deal in a short time. There are six main themes that have come out of this review meeting.

First, we are reminded of the diverse needs of Asia and the Pacific in Aid for Trade. At the extremes are the landlocked economies where goods must cross many borders to reach markets, and the isolated small states with limited productive capacity. In between lie economies with notable potential but large challenges in infrastructure, policy and capacity. It is clear that an appropriate Aid for Trade strategy in our region must be tailored to meet the specific needs of our diverse developing member countries.

Second, the success stories in Asia and the Pacific offer many lessons as Aid for Trade moves forward. These include the importance of keeping outward-orientation as an integral part of national development strategies, building world-class infrastructure to support cost-competitive production and services, and creating the critical mass of general and technical skills needed for trade-related development.

Third, the region needs effective public-private partnerships to drive innovative trade finance. As the region's capital markets deepen, lending and credit enhancements, including guarantees, can reduce trade costs---particularly for export credits and risk protection. Of course, public-private sector partnerships are important in diagnosing, delivering, and monitoring Aid for Trade programs more generally.

Fourth, the range of participants at this meeting illustrates the usefulness of bringing together all key actors in Aid for Trade---whether they be trade and finance ministers, recipients and donors, or private sector or others.

Fifth, I am encouraged that the major donors have shown the willingness to commit additional resources for Aid for Trade in the region. And I am glad to hear that some of these new funds are already being converted into concrete aid programs.

And finally, it is worth reiterating that the Aid for Trade initiative is in fact "Aid for Trade for Development," and not Aid for Trade per se. We therefore need to ensure that this initiative is firmly grounded in the region's development agenda, and in support of ADB's overarching goal of poverty reduction.

ADB can be effective as Aid for Trade moves forward in advocacy, implementation, and monitoring. We look forward to working with our global and regional development partners to ensure Aid for Trade is a success. The outcome of this review meeting will be reflected in our joint report to the Global Aid for Trade Review meeting in Geneva.

In closing, I want to thank you all once again for participating and wish you a safe journey home.

Thank you.

Story from ADB:

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/Speeches/2007/ms2007063.asp>