

Jong-Wha Lee



Beginning 1 March 2007, Mr. Jong-Wha Lee assumes the position as ADB's Head of the Office of Regional Economic Integration (OREI).

OREI assists ADB in facilitating regional economic cooperation and integration in Asia and the Pacific. One of its responsibilities is to develop and maintain the Asia Regional Integration Center (ARIC) and AsianBondsOnline websites.

"I am looking forward to help guide OREI as we move ahead on the wide-ranging series of initiatives that have done so much already in bringing together the economies of our diverse region and its various subregions," says Mr. Lee.

"Whether helping build greater cross-border infrastructure, promoting intraregional trade and investment, working toward eventual monetary and financial integration, or tackling regional issues such as disaster preparedness or avian influenza, OREI performs an integral part in achieving ADB's vision of an integrated, poverty-free, prosperous, and peaceful Asia and Pacific. "

Mr. Lee, a national of the Republic of Korea, obtained his Ph.D. and master's in Economics from Harvard University, USA, and his master's and bachelor in Economics from Korea University in Seoul.

Mr. Lee has over 20 years of professional experience as an economist and academic. He worked as Economist at the International Monetary Fund and taught at Harvard University as Visiting Professor. He served as consultant to the Harvard Institute for International Development, the Inter-American Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, and the World Bank. He also served as a member of the National Economic Advisory Council in Korea.

He has most recently been Director of the International Center for Korean Studies and a Professor of Economics at Korea University. He has published numerous books and refereed journal articles in English and Korean, especially on topics in human capital, growth, financial crises, and economic integration.