

# The 4<sup>th</sup> Asian Development Forum

Jakarta, 13-14 March 2013

## Chairman Summary

### Session 1

This session hosts discussion on *equity and inclusiveness in development in the Asian region* with a particular focus on the links between economic growth, jobs creation, and infrastructure financing in addressing the development challenges in the contexts of Post-Busan and Post-2015 Development Agenda. Some highlights include:

- Asia's development needs to be characterized by long, inclusive, and sustainable development. But the challenge is pertinent: Asia should not copy the Western model. The lesson learned from the recent global financial crisis is that the model is fragile and will not sustain in the future. While eradicating poverty has to be the objective of the development, to tackle the inequality we need policies that support equality and promote *inclusive* growth.
- Despite developing Asia's great success in raising living standards and reducing poverty, swelling income disparities threaten to undermine the pace of progress, and in this regard policymakers must take note to three issues; first is the importance of inclusive and sustainable growth to alleviate poverty and address income disparity. Secondly is the importance of generating higher domestic demands; and third is the importance of improving political and social sustainability.

- The discussion on the Post 2015 development Agenda and Post-Busan Global Partnership should involve strong participation from the emerging and developed economies and for that reason Asia should make even a much stronger contribution in its design as the region has very rich experience in boosting growth consistently for several decades. It is a very important lesson learned to be implemented in other parts of the world.

## **Session 2**

In session 2, the participants discuss several critical issues proposed to be part of the expected outputs for Post-2015 development agenda which lie around the three dimensions of economic growth, social equality and environmental sustainability. Some highlighted points during the discussion could be underlined as follows:

- The global situation today is facing 'unsustainable' challenges such as climate change, poverty increase, food security issues, and water scarcity. Thus, making development sustainable is a must, not an option. National development plans of each country should be the basis of sustainable development. This new paradigm - boosting economic growth, poverty eradication, and preserving environment will achieve sustainable development.
- The Post 2015 development agenda must take into account various challenges that Asia faces, in particular, environmental challenges. Several alternative approaches put forward, such as ZEN approach by the ADB, to support the post 2015 MDG development agenda are very interesting to tackle broader sustainable development challenges. At the

same time, there are concerns on the challenges about how to make the economy greener. It is important that the integration of efficient use of natural resources and environmental impacts be incorporated from the beginning into our national development plan.

### **Session 3**

Session 3 discusses the improving resilience to external shocks such as natural disasters. It provided very beneficial contributions from all participants on how various external shocks influence poverty group, what kind of policy interventions have been effective against external shocks and preventions of damages, and get implications for setting goals to promote the policies concerned. The session highlights some points which include:

- Recall the Joint Statement by the Minister of Finance of Japan and the World Bank President at the Sendai Dialogue last October and the Yogyakarta Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Asia and the Pacific 2012 last November by which urged to mainstream DRR in development. That should be achieved effectively through complementary effort in the post-2015 development agenda and the Post Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA).
- Underline the importance to build resilience of society to the external shocks by addressing the underlying causes of disaster risks from the preparation phase with holistic approach. Good practice of such should be shared and mutually learned within/and among countries for effective DRR and the Asian experience is useful for other regions such as Sub-Sahara Africa or Latin America facing drought and other type of disasters.
- It is noted that today's complexity such as conflicts, crises in food, health

and economic sectors are interrelated with natural disasters, which requires DRR cross sectoral approach and attention to nexus between DRR and other sectors. These challenges to the livelihood and dignity of people requires inclusive approach by emphasizing empowerment and protection of people, and the Human Security could be one of many alternative approaches.

## **Session 4**

This session discusses the dynamics of the Asian development cooperation, supporting the post Busan Global Partnership in addressing Post 2015 Development Challenges. In this session the participants shared best practices of partnership among various development actors on their engagement in tackling development issues in the Asia region. Some points have been highlighted during this session:

- The role of Global Partnership is emphasized on the 'How' mechanism to support the achievement of the Post 2015 development agenda as well as the 'what'. Global Partnership should be seen as a reflection of dynamic changes in the global development architecture, where the involvement of broad range of stakeholders, in particularly emerging economies, is highlighted to foster inclusive development.
- The importance of increasing contributions from international communities in the development process, not only through providing financing resources but also through how they can support a particular country to further strengthen and improve its hard- and soft- skills and the capacity building development that lead to the country's increasing creativity and initiatives.

- There are different approaches in the knowledge sharing mechanism through which new actors can get involved more closely in the process such as private sectors, CSOs and philanthropy organizations. It is also important to note that knowledge sharing can be framed as a demand driven approach to enhance capacity, and thus how to find best fit for development cooperation.
- Within the development cooperation sphere, country – regional – global level approaches have affected how development policy move beyond the traditional approach of cooperation to more innovative approach to support development issues, each with its own unique roles and contribution including how to share the diversification of Asian model. In particular, it is important to enhance the concept of inclusive development by reaching out vulnerable groups to support the creation of a vigorous society.
- To improve the investment climate and the participation of private sector in the development process, concrete example has been highlighted through how the flow of development cooperation financing can be channel directly through private sectors.