

STATEMENT

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To the

Third Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC, Kyoto, Japan

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates:

1. On behalf of Mr. Mitsuo Sato, President of the Asian Development Bank, let me express our thanks to the Conference for accrediting the Asian Development Bank to the Conference of Parties as Observer. The Bank has been actively involved in activities relating to the provisions of the UNFCCC for a number of years. A few of these are as follows:

2. In 1992, through its technical assistance, the Bank had supported the initiatives of ten Developing Member Countries (DMCs) to formulate national response strategies for Climate Change. Subsequently, the Bank also supported several specific country studies, including those of the People's Republic of China and Thailand. The Bank has co-sponsored and participated in several international and regional initiatives on Climate Change, together with the United Nations system and the Governments of Japan and USA. Through its loan operations, the Bank has directly supported energy efficiency

and renewable energy development projects in our DMCs, including PRC and India. In addition, the Bank's Policy on Energy and Forestry explicitly address Climate Change concerns to ensure that these are adequately embodied in the Bank's operations.

3. In collaboration with the UNDP/GEF, and with a number of other international and national institutions, the Bank is, since February 1995, executing the Asia Least-cost Greenhouse Gas Abatement Strategy (ALGAS) project in 11 countries in Asia. The project is also being implemented in the DPRK by UNESCAP with GEF/UNDP funding. The largest technical assistance project so far implemented by the Bank, the ALGAS project is focussed explicitly on helping the participating countries meet their present commitments under the UNFCCC in respect of GHG inventory preparation, formulation of national GHG abatement strategies, and development of a pipeline of GHG abatement investment projects. It is nearing completion, and some of the key results of the project, which I believe are of relevance to your deliberations in this Conference of Parties, are being presented in a seminar organized jointly with UNDP/GEF as a side-event to this Conference of Parties on 8-9 December 1997. As a preliminary estimate, this study reveals that in 1990, the 12 countries which together comprise over 50% of the world population contributed 13% of the total global emissions of GHGs. In terms of per capita emissions, the contribution of these countries, again in 1990 in terms of CO₂-equivalent was 1.6 tons/capita as compared to 6.1 tons/capita global average, 32.2 tons/capita in Australia and 20.4 tons/capita in USA. Despite this, the Asian countries continue to fulfill their commitments to UNFCCC by acquiring capacity in preparation of

GHG inventories, and developing GHG abatement strategy, including identifying GHG abatement projects.

4. In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I am happy to say that the Bank will observe with keen interest the outcomes of the Third Conference of Parties. Thereafter, the Bank may consider, in consultation with all parties concerned, the formulation of a concrete program of assistance to our DMCs. In doing so, we expect to rely significantly on the accomplishments of the ALGAS project, including the portfolio of greenhouse gas abatement investment projects prepared by each participating DMC.