



JAMIE LEATHER
Director, Transport Sector Office, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

## Welcome Message

Transport is an operational priority for ADB under its <u>Strategy 2030</u> development framework, and as ADB has committed to be the climate bank for Asia and the Pacific, we have worked with governments, partner institutions, private sector, and civil society to deliver projects, mobilize financing, and implement cutting-edge knowledge to prioritize comprehensive approaches and innovations for more sustainable and better transport systems, to meet the region's growing needs.

ADB is honored and privileged to be supporting and hosting this high-level forum on environmentally sustainable transport, gathering stakeholders, partners, and policymakers to address the crisis of climate change through better, transformative transport. This forum is aligned not just with our key initiatives with Strategy 2030 and on achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): it is but one of the many steps for our commitment to be the region's climate bank, with ADB being the first multilateral development bank to set clear climate investment targets for 2030.

ADB is supporting its developing members in several transport sustainability areas—such as in electric mobility, rail and mass transit, and climate-resilient roads—while mainstreaming climate adaptation into its transport operations, which ensures that engineering specifications, master planning, maintenance and contract scheduling take into account climate adaptation measures. Also, this year, we launched the <u>Green Roads Toolkit</u>, which serves as a comprehensive compendium of measures for guiding the planning, development, construction, and management of roads, and provides good practices under nine dimensions including decarbonization, climate resilience, conserving biodiversity, disaster preparedness, and responsible sourcing of materials. We also initiated the <u>Asian Transport Outlook</u> (ATO) to strengthen the knowledge base on transport in the region, working with interested parties in developing the ATO as an instrument to track the implementation of the SDGs, the Paris Agreement, The Aichi Declaration, and other relevant international agreements on sustainable development in the transport sector.

We believe that the knowledge, discussions, and lessons learned from this Forum can serve to improve and further the implementation of current and future transport projects in Asia and the Pacific. We look forward to working more closely with international organizations and relevant institutions, and the public and private sectors, as partners to implement necessary and innovative approaches to accelerate the uptake and commitment to environmentally sustainable transport.

## JAMIE LEATHER

Director, Transport Sector Office, ADB