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### **Welcome Message**

As a recently established multilateral development bank, specialized in infrastructure, we would like to commend the leadership and efforts of the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) to maintain relevant the Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) Forum for almost 20 years. This Forum provides a unique opportunity to conduct high-level policy dialogue on climate- and nature-positive transport infrastructure development in Asia. Recognizing this, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is pleased to join UNCRD, the Ministry of Environment of Japan, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the first time in 2024 as a co-organizer of the 16th EST Forum. We are very keen to build strong relationships with governments, private sector leaders, and development partners to maximize our impact.

AIIB is committed to developing livable cities to improve the quality of life of their citizens. In fact, enhancing urban mobility is identified as one of the priority investment areas in our Sustainable Cities Strategy. This has resulted in a robust portfolio of urban transport investments. I firmly believe that the enhancement and construction of mass transit systems plays a pivotal role to decarbonize metropolitan areas.

As stated in our Corporate Strategy, from the outset, AIIB's mandate is to prioritize green infrastructure development. AIIB-funded projects are designed to not only support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but also to be fully aligned with the Paris Agreement. We aim to contribute to climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience through our investment operations. The impact of our urban mobility projects is especially relevant as they promote a modal shift from the private vehicle to greener transport modes. All this together reinforces the Bank's mission to foster sustainable economic development in Asia and beyond.

The goals established under the Aichi 2030 Declaration on Environmentally Sustainable Transport inspire AIIB to contribute to achieve universally accessible, safe, affordable, efficient, clean, low-carbon, resilient, multi-modal passenger and freight transport in Asia. I consider that the goals to be discussed during the 16th EST Forum (i.e., air pollution, economic sustainability, and urban access) are crucial to address the urgent need for sustainable transport in Asia. The engagement of AIIB with the Asian Transport Outlook (ATO), started from 2023, strengthen our data and knowledge base to better align our transport investments with the goals listed above.

We would like to also commend the Government of the Philippines for hosting the 16th EST Forum and especially the Department of Transportation (DOTR) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) for their key role in delivering sustainable transport across the archipelago. We are very excited to co-organize this event and are looking forward to exchanging insights from the participants. Together, we can explore low-carbon pathways toward building a more sustainable transport future for Asia.

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