

September 1, 2026

Statement by Ms. KATAYAMA Satsuki, Minister of Finance, Japan

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced today that the incumbent President KANDA Masato was unanimously re-elected for a second term. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to member countries for their support for President Kanda.

Since assuming office in February 2025, President Kanda has leveraged his outstanding expertise and extensive experience in international finance and development policy, and swiftly advanced key initiatives, including the formulation of the critical minerals strategy. He has also led procurement reforms and paved the way for a significant expansion of ADB's lending capacity through an amendment to the ADB Charter. Furthermore, he has demonstrated strong leadership in addressing regional and global challenges, including the conflict in the Middle East. I am convinced that his re-election reflects the high appreciation of member countries for these achievements.

The Asia-Pacific region faces increasingly complex development challenges, including more frequent and severe natural disasters, public health crises, and heightened economic and fiscal vulnerabilities. I strongly hope that the ADB, under President Kanda's leadership and in close collaboration with its member countries, will continue to address these challenges and provide stronger support for the region's sustainable growth and development. I am also confident that the ADB Annual Meeting in Aichi-Nagoya in May 2027 will serve as an important opportunity to advance these efforts.