

ADB President highlights innovation and support for sustainable agriculture and energy in Indonesia

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ADB President Calls for Innovation to Drive Inclusive Growth in Southeast Asia Jakarta, Indonesia – Asian Development Bank (ADB). President Masato Kanda emphasized the critical role of science, technology, and innovation in fostering inclusive and sustainable growth across Southeast Asia during his keynote address at the 9th Science and Technology in Society (STS) Forum ASEAN-Japan Conference in Jakarta.

Highlighting ASEAN's extraordinary potential, Mr. Kanda stated, "Countries that innovate are countries that thrive. By connecting ideas with resources and leveraging platforms like the STS Forum, we can create opportunities that reach every community."

He stressed the need to prioritize innovation in regional strategies to address pressing challenges and unlock opportunities for inclusive prosperity.

Mr. Kanda outlined three key areas of focus: modern, interconnected energy systems; resilient food systems; and smart, inclusive cities. He reaffirmed ADB's commitment to providing up to \$10 billion over the next decade to support the ASEAN Power Grid and \$40 billion by 2030 for food systems transformation. These investments aim to enhance regional energy security, improve food and water security, and promote sustainable urban development.

The ADB President also underscored the importance of regional cooperation, increased investment in research and development, and partnerships with the private sector to close technology gaps. He highlighted the need for innovative financial tools and strategic partnerships to address complex challenges and advance sustainable growth across the region.

During his visit to Indonesia, Mr. Kanda toured ADB-supported projects in Lombok, showcasing the bank's commitment to practical solutions for regional challenges. These included an irrigation initiative led by women-led water user associations, which aims to enhance food and water security, and a solar farm developed by Vena Energy, a leading renewable energy producer. These projects underscore ADB's support for Indonesia's energy transition and private sector investment.

ADB, founded in 1966 and owned by 69 members—50 from the region—continues to play a pivotal role in fostering inclusive and sustainable growth across Asia and the Pacific. By harnessing innovative financial tools and forming strategic partnerships, ADB remains dedicated to transforming lives, building quality infrastructure, and safeguarding the planet.

As Mr. Kanda concluded, "Innovation must remain central to our strategies. Together, we can create a future where every community benefits from sustainable and inclusive growth." This renewed focus on innovation aligns with ADB's broader mission to address the region's most pressing challenges, from energy security to food systems transformation, while promoting resilience and sustainability.