

**LETTER OF WELCOME TO THE READERS
OF EDB EURASIAN INTEGRATION YEARBOOK**

It is my great pleasure to welcome readers to the first edition of the EDB Eurasian Integration Yearbook.


The Eurasian Development Bank was founded in January 2006 at the initiative of the Presidents of Russia and Kazakhstan. The Bank's mission is to promote economic development and integration in the Eurasian region. Having identified our fundamental goals, the founders of the EDB have forged swiftly ahead with the process of making our vision a reality. With credit and investment as its core activities, the EDB has already financed a number of development projects in our member states.

The Eurasian Development Bank is a new bank, operating alongside other well-known international financial institutions in the field of economic development. Our aim, however, is not to compete but to build upon existing synergies which will enable us to respond more effectively to the needs of our member states. Our activities may be similar to other well-established multilateral development banks, but the EDB's mission, strategy and corporate values are what make the Bank unique. Firstly, our belief that regional cooperation and integration are key to the future economic development of CIS countries means that we prioritise projects which will contribute to regional economic integration. Secondly, we are the "local" development bank, and have adapted our terms and conditions to the specific development context and needs of our member states.

In line with our strategic goals for 2008–2010 the Bank aims to become a centre of research excellence and a leading supplier of information on regional integration. We have recently set up a Technical Assistance Fund to support regional integration programmes, specialised inter-state initiatives and financial consultancy. Through its regular conferences, which bring together academics and representatives from the public and private sectors, the Bank provides a platform for the discussion of existing and emerging issues relating to the integration process, and for the formulation of recommendations.

You are among the first readers of our Yearbook. The aim of this publication is to present to the international community the most authoritative articles and studies on economic and political integration in Eurasia written in Russian. The Yearbook's editorial board is made up of well-known academics, practitioners and renowned experts on regional integration.

I believe that the EDB Eurasian Integration Yearbook will become a popular and trusted source of information for all stakeholders in the integration process.



**IGOR FINOGENOV
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
EURASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK**