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**Opening & Closing Remarks
Of**

**Naoko Ishii, PhD
CEO and Chairperson of the GEF
At the
GEF – ADB High Level event on Technology Transfer and Finance**

Date: December 3, 2012

Event Time: 13.15 to 14.45

**When: 18th Conference of the Parties to United Nations Framework Convention on
Climate Change**

Honorable Vice-Minister, Dr. Bindu Lohani, Dr. Andrew Steer, Dr. Ajay Mathur, Ms. Mary Barton-Dock, Representatives of the GEF Agencies and private sector, ladies and gentlemen.

Technology transfer is crucial to addressing global environmental challenges. Our behavior as producers and consumers, and the ways we use, or ignore, available technology, determine our ability to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to changing climate.

The Global Environment Facility has financed climate technology transfer since its inception in 1991. [The GEF is uniquely designed to catalyze technology transfer, and mobilize the positive interactions among policies, behavior, and technology.]

Over the past four years, the GEF has intensified technology transfer support through the Poznan Strategic Program on Technology Transfer and the Long-Term Program on Technology Transfer. These two programs responded to requests from Parties to this Convention. Both seek to mobilize investments to help developing countries meet their needs for environmentally sound technology and management practices. Let me briefly highlight two main components of these programs.

First, both the Poznan and the Long-Term program support Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs). The GEF has financed these assessments in almost 40 countries, and is ready to support more. But needs assessments alone are not enough. We need to involve financing partners early in the process to make sure that the assessment results are bankable, and do not end up on a shelf.

Second, both programs involve pilot technology transfer projects. The Poznan program got under way with \$50 million of GEF funding toward 14 pilot projects. Since then, our financing of technology has increased significantly. From July 2010, the GEF has approved \$1 billion for 94 mitigation projects and 60 adaptation projects [from the GEF Trust fund, the Special Climate Change Fund, and the Least Developed Countries Fund]. These projects are leveraging over \$7 billion in co-financing.

I encourage you to learn more about these activities in our brochure available in the back of the room.

With this background, let me turn to today's side event, which we are excited to organize with ADB. This event seeks to raise awareness of the Poznan Program and the Long-Term Program. In particular, it presents two promising approaches of technology transfer and financing efforts. In the

first session, we will discuss an approach to technology transfer that integrates financing and networks, emphasizing the importance of concrete investments. The very first example of this approach is the ADB/UNEP pilot Asia-Pacific Climate Technology Network and Finance Centre project. Three other examples, from Africa, Latin America, and Eastern Europe and Central Asia by three regional development banks are also featured in the first roundtable.

The second session focuses on the engagement with the private sector. We have to admit that our track record of engaging with the private sector is mixed. Therefore, I am keen to hear the experiences and lessons-learned from the private sector and from public-private partnerships in the second round table.

Finally, let me finish my remarks with a dose of reality. Our collective efforts to date are small compared to the technology transfer needs. To achieve the transformational change we need, the GEF must continue to be an innovator. I believe that technology transfer can be a key element of our innovative approaches. It is essential for us to catalyze and leverage efforts of partners to achieve a scale that matches the magnitude of the challenges.

We know we need to go further. I hope this dialogue generates ideas and opportunities to help us move forward.

Thank you very much.

Closing Remarks (5 minutes)

Today's event highlights what we and our partners have achieved. It also helped to take stock of lessons learned to date.

I said in my opening remarks that, although we have promising results, we need to go further and achieve more. I would like conclude by emphasizing the need for innovation and partnerships, if we want to achieve more, do better, and deliver transformative impacts.

The GEF has supported many pilot and demonstration projects with concrete impacts. So far, these were only small-scale investments. But the GEF has the capacity to catalyze and combine efforts that would otherwise be scattered and unrelated. The limited time left to address the two-degree goal demand that we go beyond demonstration. And since we know that the means available will be limited, we need to find new approaches. These approaches may be more risky. But the GEF is designed to work with stakeholders willing to take such risks. The GEF can be a formidable partner.

We need innovative mechanisms that are financially sustainable to deliver impacts at scale. We need approaches that make it possible for governments

and regional institutions to incorporate climate change in their main strategies, not as an additional burden, but as an opportunity.

I am convinced that for all this to be possible, we also have to find ways to better engage the private sector. Our second session provided insights in that domain.

During this COP, Parties are expected to choose the host of the future Climate Technology Center and then start defining the way to work with its future network. In response to requests from Parties, the GEF stands ready to support the operationalization and activities of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), in line with the GEF instrument.

Humankind faces unprecedented challenges with climate change. Climate technology and its successful transfer would be critical for addressing these challenges. The gravity of the situation calls for all stakeholders to work together, and for the international community to offer seamless packages of assistance and financing to developing countries.

I close this event by thanking all of you for your participation, for sharing ideas and opportunities to help us move forward.

Thank you very much.