Nonetheless, an organization like the ADB forms an important multilateral link, connecting developed and developing countries. Therefore, it has the added effect of a catalyst, inducing a stream of technical and capital resources considerably greater than its own to flow into this region. I am confident that the financial resources will be forthcoming, evidenced by the response of the developed countries to the suggestion of last December's Conference on Agricultural Development in Southeast Asia for the creation of an agricultural special fund, to be administered by the Asian Development Bank. Looking a bit further down the road, the ADB will endeavor to raise investment funds for this region through the sale of its bonds in the international capital markets.

In the interim, the Asian Agricultural Survey represents the Bank's initial attempt to mobilize outside technical resources for the tangible benefit of the region. The success of this maiden effort, in terms of the expertise represented on the Survey's Consultative Committee and its Technical and Economic Survey Team, should be a source of considerable encouragement to the developing member countries.

The Consultative Committee held its first session last week, purporting to "consider the appropriate procedures and methods necessary to ensure the smooth and efficient operation of the Survey and, through discussion and refinement of the terms of reference, to pave the way for the work of the Technical and Economic Survey Team . . ." I was greatly impressed with the Committee's grasp of the problems inherent in such a Survey, namely the limitations imposed by the Bank's specific requirements and time, as well as their desire to circumscribe the objectives of the Survey to focus primarily on a program of action for the ADB. In other words, the Survey will not endeavor to produce another in the stream of general reference works on the subject of agricultural development. Neither will it presume to conduct an in-depth investigation of each developing nation's particular economic problems in the relatively brief span of six months.

The Survey is, instead, designed to serve as a framework for the future operations of the Bank as they relate to the field of agricultural development. It will attempt to pinpoint the needs of the region, the problems which have traditionally created or perpetuated those needs, and, finally, general investment opportunities which the Bank could promote to satisfy those needs. The optimum opportunities would be those which increase productive capacity, especially those which introduce technological advances.

A process of selection and limitation in the conduct of the Sur-