

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS POLICY REVIEW

NGOs warn 'Safety Valve' may impede ADB's small success in transparency

HANOI, VIETNAM, 5 May 11 — Bank monitor today warned the public over ADB's move to providing the bank president power to veto any request for information. Learn more about Forum's campaign on ADB's transparency

Our Submissions

The Asian Development Bank launched the review of its Public Communications Policy mid-February 2010. Though civil society groups welcomed the bank's move, the challenge remains: recognizing and respecting public access to information as a fundamental right.

ADB challenged to come up with more transparent policy, 2 May 2011
Bank watchdog today urged ADB Board members to ensure greater access to project information by affected people. In a letter sent to ADB Board, Forum said, "ongoing policy review on information disclosure shows ADB's bias towards private sector, limiting access by affected people to information."

ADB Must Clinch the Opportunity for Bolder PCP Reforms: Forum's comments on ADB's PCP second consultation draft, 14 January 2011. Though the language of the second PCP draft recognizes the right to information, the ADB has continued to be reluctant in making an institutional commitment to the needs of affected communities for information.

Forum's letter to ADB External Relations Director Ann Quon, 23 September 2010
Civil society organizations today called on the ADB to come up with a revised disclosure policy in line with the right to information. More than 200 groups and individuals questioned ADB's willingness to respond to people's concerns over its information policy.

Can We Expect Serious Reform from the ADB PCP Review? (Forum's response to draft revised PCP), 16 June 2010. Forum raises serious doubts over the ADB's sincerity and readiness to respond to people's concerns over the PCP review. The Bank came up with a weak draft revised PCP as basis for its series of national/regional consultations as part of the ongoing review.

Failure to Deliver: The State of Peoples' Access to Information Under the ADB PCP (Forum's assessment report), 15 April 2010. Forum consolidates in this report its PCP review and consultation process that began in February 2009. It presents the resulting analysis and recommendations of the Forum on the existing PCP. It also provides a brief historical note on the ADB's review of its 1994 Disclosure Policy.

Bold Measures Towards a Responsive PCP: Forum-GTI joint recommendations on ADB's PCP, 15 April 2010. A consolidation of the common proposed revisions to the PCP by Forum and GTI based on their respective reports which focus on (1) the regime of exceptions;

- (2) the oversight or appeals systems; and
- (3) access by affected people to project information.

Securing the People's Right to Information: Will the ADB Rise to the Challenge? (GTI's comments on ADB PCP), 15 April 2010.

GTI gives its analyses on the shortcomings of the PCP guided by its Transparency Charter for International Financial Institutions, the new Disclosure Policy of the World Bank and consultations with communities and international organizations jointly conducted with the Forum, among others.

ADB External RD's response to Forum-GTI letter, 22 February 2010
As a response to Forum's letter in November 2009 about the PCP review process, ADB Department of External Relations Principal Director Ann Quon's reiterated the bank's commitment to consult with a wide range of stakeholders.

Forum-GTI letter to ADB External Relations Director Ann Quon, 18 November 2009
Anticipating the upcoming review in 2010, Forum expressed its interest in actively participating in the review process. It requested the ADB's assurance for a transparent and participatory review process.