



NGO Open Forum

Consultation & Dialogue,
Information Delivery

ADB Support to NGOs, New Operational
Mechanisms

Consultation and Dialogue

- ❖ NGO Center needing to make links into the operational aspects of the Bank; how will the changes in structure allow NGO opinions and true participation?

- ❖ For the NGO Center to be a useful mechanism, its approach should be centralized so that its processes and learnings influence the OPM
- ❖ Skills/experience in civil society concerns should be included into all processes and cycles, including design and program development.

Nature and timing of consultations

- ❖ Who is involved and who isn't? Access to information for those being consulted must be timely; without this transparency is being curtailed.
- ❖ What happens with the information from the consultation. Explicit processes for feedback, how is the policy/project/program etc changed?

- ❖ Why has XX not happened? This needs to be communicated to all participants and stakeholders.
- ❖ Consultations that are poor (used to legitimize pre-determined outcomes) are self defeating and damaging beyond the bounds of the issue being consulted.

❖ How is participation and consultation reported and represented. Eg. How will this forum and process be represented? Within the Bank and externally. What will be the outputs?

Getting the spectrum of views

- ❖ Include a more diverse representation; eg. not just umbrella organizations/ academics; also include the difficult views. Expected and unexpected. The comfortable and uncomfortable.

Partnership or Hired Hands?

- ❖ NGOs represent a wide range of interests and possible roles, on different types of projects. Therefore there is interest in different degrees of partnership depending on project type, kind of NGO, and NGO role.

- ❖ Project selection and design should include a formalized role for NGOs (local in-country at project site, and possibly international NGOs) as partners and/or hire-help
- ❖ Joint funded projects (with other donors such as DfID, AusAID), provide better potential for NGO influence and participation due to other donor commitment to a community participation orientation

❖ TA/Consultancy on Infrastructure projects (eg plantation, roads, WSS etc), track record of consultation is poor, NGO involvement has been weak in influencing project selection, design, decisions and outcomes. Mixed views on whether partnership is desirable/possible. Some NGOs prefer maintaining strict independence in order to criticize bank policy and practice.

- ❖ TA on Health / HIV-AIDS, social awareness issues
 - NGOs have done TA with good results to facilitate strong community consultation & participation, & develop tools and policies.
- ❖ Advocacy role – NGOs whose major role is advocacy see the need to remain strictly independent (not a ‘partnership’)

- ❖ NGOs with their own funding have had good experiences of a “light partnership” with ADB, drawing on ADB ‘strengths’ in selection of countries / areas to work with.
- ❖ NGOs have strong role to advocate for accountability by ADB to donors. Some governments are receptive, some not.

NGO Center – can play a good role to facilitate partnership / advocacy / hired-help roles; effectiveness is in question.

- ❖ Small staff - limited knowledge of all projects.
- ❖ Should be an effective link between project officers and communities
- ❖ Role as facilitator not watchdog

Formalized involvement for NGOs:

- ❖ local NGOs (funding issues? Selection?).
International NGOs - through Web site? -
leading to “NGO Cooperation Framework”

Consultation Board of NGOs

- ❖ potential to provide board of appeal for projects during selection and design

Has ADB Been Doing Enough?

- ❖ Sense of progress over last five years (e.g., NGO Center)
- ❖ Sense that President Chino is committed to building stronger relations with NGOs

Should ADB Establish a Fund (eg, Small Grants Window)?

- ❖ How would it best be used?
- ❖ How “self-referential”? Only pertaining to ADB projects?
- ❖ ADB strategies? A forum for discussion of different concepts approaches to development?
- ❖ Example of the Japan Special Fund Poverty Alleviation
- ❖ Bringing in other donors, contribution of capital and also a
- ❖ “seat at the table” in terms of how money expended
- ❖ NOT be used for general capacity building support
- ❖ Realism about transaction/implementation costs at ADB

Should there be a formal NGO- ADB Consultative Board?

- ❖ Use role of ADB NGO Center as an example of potentials
- ❖ but also pitfalls
- ❖ At what level would it be staffed? Task managers?
- ❖ (NGO Center reporting directly to President's office)
- ❖ Does it have a programming function or merely reactive?

Consultative Bodies for Regional Programs?

- ❖ Should be discussed with respect to ADB's
- ❖ decentralization generally
- ❖ NGOs with regional scope only, or country specific?
- ❖ These programs are often about developing co-financing
- ❖ mechanisms; some oversight role of financing partners?
- ❖ Agenda setting processes

Create a registration roster of NGOs for ADB?

- ❖ General positive reaction
- ❖ Only NGOs which have formal registration?
- ❖ (problem with China, Japan)
- ❖ (NGOs registered at sub national level)

Codes of Conduct?

- ❖ An example forwarded from European Commission,
- ❖ now awaiting comment
- ❖ EC example is “behavioral” rather than “contractual”
- ❖ Must be “two-way,” with ADB also committed to NGOs