

Completed Questionnaire on the Review of ADB's Disclosure and Information Policies

Policy on Confidentiality and Disclosure of Information

ADB's policy is to provide the greatest possible degree of transparency and disclosure in all areas of operations, subject to practical and legal constraints.

1. Public Perception of ADB in Implementing the Policy

- A. What is your view of ADB regarding access to information? Why? Please provide examples. **No experience along this line.**
- B. What is your view of ADB regarding transparency? Why? Please provide examples **No knowledge.**
- C. What can ADB do to strengthen public participation and communication with people living in project areas?
Information dissemination will strengthen public participation. Use appropriate channels that will reach those who are concerned. This means the type of information should match the specific concern and the outcome expected.

2. Disclosure of Documents to the Public during the Operational Cycle

My answers do not necessarily refer to ADB projects.

- A. At what stage in the project cycle (identification, design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation) would it be most appropriate for ADB to share information? At what stage would the information be most useful to your organization or affected communities in project areas?
Information should be available or communicated in all stages of the project cycle.
- What kind of information?
Project identification - - project goal or purpose
Design – issues being addressed. People could validate these issues
Implementation - major activities, time table, budget, implementers or project partners
Monitoring & Evaluation – Outcome, impact, corrections if any.
 - What do you need the information for?
To participate, to give feedback, to validate your action/purpose which affects me – a stakeholder of the project.
- B. Please give examples (if any) where failure to disclose information has decreased program or project effectiveness, or cost time and resources? Why?
In a reforestation project, for example, we did not want the way the project was implemented (like planting mahogany and gmelina and replacing people's rice fields with trees). We could not do anything because according to DENR, there are institutional targets agreed upon.
- C. Have you requested a document/information about a project while it is being designed or implemented? If so, what kind of document/information?
No. I have not requested any documentation from any project donor/implementor for that matter.

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- D. ADB's Country Strategy and Program (CSP) process requires consultation with external stakeholders, including civil society. What information do you need about the CSP and its process to contribute to your country's strategy and program? When do you need it?
I would like to know any NGO involvement so our NGO can participate or compete if a project is within our scope of purpose. Information will also be helpful in making strategic objectives for the long run or short term. When? Anytime it is available.
- E. English is the working language of ADB. However, in your opinion, when would it be most useful for ADB to translate documents into other languages in your country?
Translation of documents may be helpful if they are intended for non-English speaking audience.
- What should be the criteria for translation? (i.e., what kind of documents, at what stage, etc.)
Filipinos are verbal and highly personalized. A focus group discussion or a face-to-face meeting is more appropriate. But if general information is intended, a brochure about the project would be helpful especially when a project is focused on one area/ community.

Information Policy and Strategy

ADB's information policy supports its strategic agenda and objectives, and the information strategy is based on the messages ADB intends to convey, the target audiences, and the modes of delivery it deems relevant to use.

- A. How well is ADB known in your country?
I think in our island region, ADB is not known so much. The only time I knew ADB rather close was in a reforestation project.
- B. Do you think ADB should be doing more to raise its profile in your country? If so, why? And how?
In a debt-laden country like the Philippines, ADB, or any bank for that matter, may not have a high positive impact on the people. For one, a bank has become a tool of corrupt officials. Only a portion of the loan benefits the country and the country has to pay back. I do feel bad about this. Sometimes I wish the government should stop borrowing. A positive side of credit and corruption control could be given to avoid the impression that the Bank becomes an instrument of corruption. Information as to who gets the money, how much is paid for "administrative expenses" of the government and what is at stake if the project is not properly implemented could help the community. The information could even motivate the community to see to it that the project is properly implemented.
- C. What are the most important channels in your country for ADB to communicate information about its mission, objectives and operations? Print media? Radio/TV? Internet? Community presentations? Others (please specify):
Community presentations – using local groups to translate ADB's purpose
Radio to reach the hard-to-reach areas that are affected by ADBs project
Print for the local leaders/ government and civil society workers.

Other Recommendations

What should be done to strengthen the Policy on Confidentiality and Disclosure of Information and the Information Policy and Strategy or make them more relevant?

The Policy on Confidentiality... to my opinion is a traditional strategy where control is the purpose and fear is the motivation. It should be reviewed as to its usefulness and benefit. To be open is also risky. The strength of the organization has to be evaluated as to what extent can the organization afford disclosures. Information policy. In the age of information,

information is the vogue, the objective, the tool. The impact of information can be reduced to a verifiable indicator for efficiency, motivation, mitigation, organizing, and other purposes. Information is developmental as it makes people decide. Information gives respect to the intelligence and integrity of the recipient.

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