

Comment on ADB's 1994 Disclosure and Information Policies

TO: disclosure@adb.org

FROM: Wang Yongchen
Green Earth Volunteers/China National Radio
People's Republic of China

DATE: 26 September 2003

I feel that very few people, especially very few NGOs know about ADB in China. The voice from NGOs is lacking. As far as I know, the funds ADB contributed to Chinese NGOs mostly were for supporting people to get out of poverty. However, I do think there are many more equally important or more important projects that ADB should consider supporting. For example, media/press in China can play a very important role in monitoring/overseeing the decision making process at the government level. A good successful example just happened not long time ago – the government decided to build a dam not far away from Dujiangyan in Sichuan. Everybody knows that the Dujiangyan Irrigation Project was built around 250 B.C. during the Warring States Period. IUCN declared Dujiangyan as a World Cultural and Natural Heritage Site. If the dam were to build, the dam could empty the river downstream of Yuzui, a major component of Dujiangyan which divides the Minjiang River into two channels, it might damage the ancient weir. The media took an active role in reporting and also opposing the idea. Along with the effort from scholars, international and local NGOs, the Project finally got terminated. So, I sincerely believe in media's strength. However, media in Beijing may have more access to all kinds of resources while local media is relatively weak in having their voice heard. I believe capacity building is necessary for Chinese media, to help the media to know how to have their voice heard, how to have the voice heard effectively, etc. If ADB would introduce its program to more Chinese NGOs, let the NGOs know the potential opportunity of where to seek help, I think that's what we need.

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