

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.

ADB certainly maintains commendable transparency with regard to access to information. It would be better, however, to send all relevant ADB publications to consultants working on ADB-funded development projects.

B. What is your view of ADB regarding transparency? Why? Please provide examples.

ADB can perhaps provide on-line status of its development projects in dedicated websites for better transparency.

C. What can ADB do to strengthen public participation and communication with people living in project areas?

ADB should always invite consultants working in project back offices to develop a blueprint for better public participation. A workshop may be organized in ADB Headquarters to streamline policy directives concerning interfaces involving consultants, project affected persons / primary stakeholders / project beneficiaries. Stakeholders liaison should be placed at a premium and a recall period established to collect feedback and analyze relevant data in order to measure performance of ADB-sponsored development projects. Consultants should also be encouraged to contribute papers to ADB project-related compendia so that the Bank may suitably maintain and update its own project-specific databases.

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

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? Implementation of actual physical work [proposed] and M&E [baseline, mid-term and post-project].

- What kind of information? Related to project progress.
- What do you need the information for?

To streamline field-level dislocations and community-level angularities.

B. Please give examples (if any) where failure to disclose information has decreased program or project effectiveness, or cost time and resources? Why?

Not applicable.

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- C. Have you requested a document/information about a project while it is being designed or implemented? If so, what kind of document/information?
 Relevant ADB publications on urban development, BME, R&R and Stakeholders Consultation Process.
- Why did you want the document?
 For better theoretical understanding and conceptual insights.
 - From which ADB office did you request the document?
 The ADB Publications Unit. Even the ADB Review would be of much assistance.
 - Did you receive it? If not, why not? How long did you wait?
 We've received the Handbook on Resettlement so far.
- 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?
 This information is critical and project consultants may be involved to prepare such CSP documents. Consultants may provide field-level inputs that are ordinarily not available to external experts. ADB may actually start project liaison units involving indigenous consultants for liaison with external stakeholders.
- 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?
 During the project cycle in order to clarify misconceptions at the community-level.
- What should be the criteria for translation? (i.e., what kind of documents, at what stage, etc.)
 Basic documents in the form of promotional literatures. Policy guidelines should be evolved in consultation with project consultants.

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?
 ADB is not as well-known as IMF or the World Bank in India.
- B. Do you think ADB should be doing more to raise its profile in your country? If so, why? And how?
 By inviting project consultants for their feedback and engaging professional PR firms. ADB development projects, in order to gain civil societal acceptance and involve enhanced public action enterprises, should deepen their stakeholders consultation process with effective actors in the public sphere.
- 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): All of the above, especially TV and Internet.

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?

ADB should clearly outline its neo-liberal policy guidelines that stress on O&M of physical assets by their end-users and economic reforms by downsizing non-merit expenditures on non-performing public assets.

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