

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.

Access to information is limited in poor countries. This is because of language problem, information disclosure from government, local authorities, no well explanation from relevant officials in project, and timeframe to compensation. For example, Highway 1 in Cambodia.

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

Regarding transparency, in my point of view, ADB has flaw of some points. For instance, consultant firm that hired to preliminarily study or project design (feasibility study); that is, they mostly received influence from government and so project cost is dependently government requirement. Second, it generally leaks bribery information in bidding of each ADB project. Third, it is still weak in mechanism of monitor and follow-up during project implementation. Fourth, quality of the project might be not matched to standard or lifetime of project cycle.

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

Should be typically consultation with people in project-affected areas.

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?

- What kind of information?

Information, should be as a process which starts from feasibility study, project design, and etc... Useful information is public awareness, consultation, and real information to pre-affected communities.

- What do you need the information for?

The information I need for is that it is transparently for not only me but also for public; for instance, project cost, transparent bidding, transparent counterpart fund in project and fair compensation to affected communities.

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

Although Highway 1 has successfully finished, but affected people in those areas are still not recovered their standard of living, income and professional.

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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?
- Why did you want the document?
I wanted document related to resettlement for instance Summary of the Handbook on Resettlement and other documents. These documents can be verified whether government surely follows ADB guideline or not. On the other hand, we wanted to mention affected people on their right conforming ADB guideline description.
 - From which ADB office did you request the document?
Appreciably, ADB office in Phnom Penh accepted our request except confident document.
 - Did you receive it? If not, why not? How long did you wait?
Otherwise, some documents I check at Web-site.
- 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 used to discuss some times with ADB experts for example Mr. Barend Frielink, Robert Dobbas and others about Country Strategy and Program. In addition, I used to organize some meetings among local and international NGOs about CSP and its update. Therefore, I will spend time to contribute my personal comments and some comments gathering from provincial networks by email if you anytime need contribution.
- 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?
It is certainly that local language is most important to rural people. This can be explained to people about what ADB's willingness to development and especially it is easily to lobby and gather them in participatory process and consultation.
- What should be the criteria for translation? (i.e., what kind of documents, at what stage, etc.)
Usually, document is too long and not easily to read even me but for rural it should be summary report and some good ideas are that brief description linked to picture of ADB achievement or some flaws of projects why did not become ownership?, why it is less for participatory process? and why quality of project is lower than project design? (This can be explained the bribe and corruption in project). These should be as in Khmer language and if possible, it should retell joking story linked to the success and non-success projects.

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?

In my personal estimation, there is only 40-50% of Cambodian who well know ADB. In remaining, some consider ADB is donor agency and some poorly understand.

B. Do you think ADB should be doing more to raise its profile in your country? If so, why? And how?

I think that ADB should produce more booklet, leaflet in Khmer language to distribute rural areas about role of ADB in development and ADB links to poverty reduction and other activities.

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):

ADB should produce small spot in Radio and TV about role of ADB development. In particular, they should explain to rural people about what is loan, how to be ownership on project, how to maintain project, how to consult and participate in project design, and etc...

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?

I think above detail mentions are all of my recommendations to Policy on Confidentiality and Disclosure of Information and the Information Policy and Strategy.

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