

## Comment on ADB's 1994 Disclosure and Information Policies

TO: disclosure@adb.org  
FROM: Ravi Rebbapragada  
mm&P  
India  
DATE: 12 November 2003

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Dear Mr. Salamon,

Greetings from mm&P !!

In the effort to review and provide recommendations on the ADB's disclosure policy, we have some comments on the same. While we endorse the aforesaid letter, we do have some recommendations to make on the disclosure policy.

While certain aspects draws on the recommendations done by you, we have mentioned specific changes pertaining to transparency of projects - information to local communities, their approval, reports available in local languages, and so on.

We hope you accept our recommendations in the light of ensuring transparency in the bank operations.

Thanking you,

In Solidarity

Ravi Rebbapragada

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Recommendations: ADB Disclosure information policy

**Project Approval:** In cases where local communities are affected due to projects funded by ADB, ADB should make it mandatory that the loan borrowing authority provides information on the project to the local communities. Further, develop a clause whereby the loanee has to seek permission from the local community.

**Translation:** Documents pertaining to the project should be made available in the national language and also the local community language.

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**Meetings of the Board of directors:** Proceedings of the Board of Directors meetings should be made available for public record and specifically those where projects approval decisions are taken.

**ADB Strategy and Policy Paper:** ADB Strategies and Policy Papers draft should be given to the public for review with specific time period before finalization of the same.

**Environment Impact Assessment:** The environment impact assessment should be made available to the public along with a report on the present status of the environment. Details of the impact on the environment due the proposed financing by the bank should also be made available.

**Project Preparation:** The program profile of the public sector should provide as much information as possible to the public during the stages of project preparation, to ensure adequate debate, dialogue, and participation by parties concerned including affected populations at the formative stages.

**Sector policy papers:** ADB may consult interested individuals and group outside the bank and may make drafts of such policy papers, including drafts of boards 'working papers' available to such individuals and groups for review and comment.

**Private Sector:** Documents of the private sector authorities applying for ADB loan should also be made available as public records.

**Monitoring:** There should be a mechanism of compliance or monitoring the bank authority.

**Public Information Centre:** ADB Document should be available in country program office as public information centre. It should be available in both soft and hard copy.