

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

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First of all I must thank ADB for being bold enough to request so such comments on transparency on itself.

I have had some past experience where I feel that ADB's procedures and practices are not transparent or they do not practice what they preach.

Hiring of Consultants is one area (evidence can be provided if necessary).

ADB openly advertises that independent consultants can register with it and apply for jobs advertised. Having accepted the registrations, consultants are asked to submit applications and depending on the size of the project preparations of applications can be an expensive exercise. In a recent case a consortium was formed to apply to undertake a project for the Fiji Government (Department of Energy to be precise), thousands of dollars many hours of time were spent in preparation of the application to suit ADB requirements, involving overseas members of the team. Finally to be told that the application was very good, met all the criteria except one, i.e. the team did not undertake a previous ADB assignment - Liugi Bodda who was project officer in charge of the project was the person who verbally advised the applicant.

This I feel goes totally against the grain of transparency and this means that only selected consultants who have to be former employees of ADB would qualify for consultancies from ADB otherwise no one else has previous ADB experience or there could be another way of getting into the system by greasing the project managers.

There are many others that relate mainly to hiring of consultants where ADB funds loan programs. ADB's inability to manage consultants to produce the desired outcomes - please refer to the Project Completion Report of the USD 20m Comprehensive Reform Program for Vanuatu. The report was prepared by ESCAP.

I would be happy to elaborate if needed.

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