

**The Public Communications Policy of the Asian Development Bank:
*Disclosure and Exchange of Information***

**Chairperson's Summary
Meeting of the Board of Directors
22 April 2005**

Directors stated their support for the public communications policy (the Policy). One director abstained because it falls short of legislative requirements of his government. Directors emphasized the need for efficient and effective implementation of the Policy.

Directors expressed support for the new external relations strategy, and welcomed the approach outlined in the Policy. In particular, Directors supported the emphasis on management's role as ADB's most visible communicator, and targeting decision makers and opinion leaders. However, some Directors cautioned ADB not to shift priority only to donors and neglect borrowing countries.

In its approach to disclosure, the Policy reflects a balance between maintaining a presumption for disclosure and respecting the views and interests of ADB's partners. Directors noted that greater transparency will ensure that ADB's operations have greater development impact. Directors cautioned that transparency should not impede a candid internal exchange of views.

Directors emphasized the importance of not adding to the transaction costs of the borrowers. Enhancement of the Bank's public communications cannot be achieved at the expense of efficient and effective operations. Management clarified that any new costs will be borne by ADB.

Some Directors commented on the upgrading of the Office of External Relations to a department, and expressed their support for the work of the representative offices being integrated into the new department.

Directors stated concern about the Policy's costs and questioned whether the costs for disclosure were underestimated. They argued that ADB must be more willing to make resource cuts in those functions that are no longer integral to its strategic mission.

Directors welcomed the more recent policy changes for the disclosure of private sector documents. Some Directors, however, called for the payments to host governments for large projects in the extractive industries to be disclosed.

Some Directors were concerned about the Policy's restriction on the disclosure of the list of sanctioned firms and individuals and called for ADB to work toward full disclosure of the sanctions list. Management responded that the list may be provided to governments on a confidential basis, and promised that the pros and cons of disclosing the list will be kept under review.