

Comment on ADB's 1994 Disclosure and Information Policies

FROM: Masud Karim
Engconsult Limited
Ontario, Canada

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I cannot participate the workshop of tomorrow due to some sudden changes in my work load. However, I would like share some of my views after reviewing the part of the draft PCP and my experiences working in ADB TA in Asia. The following are few of them:

1. Para. 20 ".. scarce donor resources..": I would like to emphasize on sharing ADB project documents with other development partners as well as with various stakeholders. When ADB send missions to member countries, extensive consultation is required with various government departments, other development partners, NGOs and preferably the consultants. Though it is the responsibility of the member countries to let ADB (and others) know what assistance they are looking for. But there are certain cases, more than one development partners are working in the same area and compete with each other. Often there are cases of repetitive studies without implementation. In addition, project preparation to implementation require couple of years, by this time, some of the objectives may have been changed due to the ongoing social and political changes in the member country. ADB needs to focus on updating its strategy with these changes. One such example is ADB's Dhaka Clean Fuel Project. During project preparation stages, two-stroke-engine vehicles was a major problem for Dhaka City. However, during the early implementation government decided to ban these vehicles. Therefore the project felt into a grave danger. To save themselves from a serious setback, the project decided to introduce new CNG low capacity vehicles (CNG baby-taxi) and flooded the already congested city roads and creating more havoc for the city dwellers. There are vested interest groups who care very little, the proper utilization of ADB loan in the member countries.

2. Para. 25 "...technical information..": Social/poverty and resettlement assessment reports should also be disclosed similar to SIEE. These information are critical for the project affected people. Most of the time affected population are kept in dark by both ADB and member countries. Summary technical information should also be disclosed. World Bank is now playing the leading role. ADB has tremendous opportunity to become the leader. Because of the ocean of TA reports. I would recommend to include public consultation for category C project as well and ensure that the scope of public consultation is properly implemented. There should be adequate budget to perform the public consultation during project TA.

3. Para 52 "...transparency ..": ADB's current procedure of procuring consulting firms is the best of my knowledge, it is transparent, up-to-date and efficient. However, hiring individual consultants is a bit skeptical. ADB hires hundreds of individual consultants for its TA and other internal requirements. And there is no disclosure who these consultants are? Similar to firm procurement, hired individual consultants' name should be disclosed. There is a perceived knowledge that ADB rarely uses the DICON database to hire an individual consultant.

I may send some more, after reviewing the whole document.

Regards

Masud Karim, Ph.D., P. Eng.
Manager, Air Quality Services and International Business
Engconsult Limited
21 Queen Street East, Suite 201
Brampton, Ontario, L6W 3P1
Canada
Tel: 905 455 7892 Fax: 905 455 2351
<http://www.eng-consult.com>

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