

March 24, 2004

Mr. Robert H. Salamon
Principal Director
Office of External Relations
Asian Development Bank

Re: Request for Documents Prior to ADB Public Communications Policy Consultation

Dear Mr. Salamon:

We are writing to request a comprehensive list of the types of documents the ADB produced and possessed in order to ensure meaningful public participation in the formulation of the Public Communications Policy. We appreciate the opportunities to comment on the draft policy and to attend the public consultation that will be held in Tokyo. However, the draft policy released on February 28 failed to provide sufficient information for external stakeholders to input into the policy formulation process.

As external stakeholders of the ADB, we are aware of only some of the types of documents produced and possessed by the ADB in the process of project identification, preparation, appraisal and implementation. Therefore, the draft should have included a list of all such ADB documents (including those in draft form), with explanations regarding whether or not each type of document can be released to the public, and reasons for such classification.

Instead of providing this information, however, the draft policy only lists the types of documents that ADB Management thinks can be made public. Because of this gap in the level of information between ADB staff and external stakeholders regarding ADB documents, it is difficult for us to input further into the new policy, which should be the “more open than any other partner institution’s” according to President Chino’s remark in the *Financial Times*.

The draft also lacks “the explanation of how external comments have been addressed,” which the ADB promised to provide with the first draft.

To ensure meaningful participation in the public consultation process for the new policy, we urge you to take the following actions:

- **The ADB should provide a comprehensive list of all the types of documents (including those in draft form) which are produced and possessed by the ADB in the process of project identification, preparation, appraisal and implementation, and state whether or not such documents can be disclosed. The list should provide concrete reasons why documents can not be disclosed. This information should be provided at least one month before the start of public consultations.**
- **The ADB should immediately provide the explanation on how the external comments on the current policy were addressed in the first draft of the new policy.**

We are looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely Yours,

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CC:

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