

Comment on ADB's 1994 Disclosure and Information Policies

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The provisions in the new policy are exhaustive in terms of both transparency and information dissemination. A few suggestions are given below for consideration:

Somewhere in the beginning of the PCP document, it should be made clear that **ADB keeps humanity's and community's long-term interests above any financial or commercial consideration**. It should be made one of the guiding principles of ADB's Public Communications Policy in deciding whether a particular piece of information can be made available to the public.

Unless board endorsement is a simple procedure not leading to delay, why should CSP and RCSP be made publicly available only after 'endorsement by the board'? Is it not better to make them public after a considered view taken by a senior officer assigned for this purpose or the section head?

Information, especially that affecting stakeholders / community, should be volunteered, rather than left to be retrieved from the web or libraries. It should be regularly e-mailed and snail-mailed to activist groups, national and international media [and local media where relevant], and e-papers.

It might help the organisation [in terms of clarity of procedure and content] and the cause of transparency, to ask for information from the parties concerned or generate output **in properly designed formats**. At the outset, let it be known to those furnishing / generating information that information contained in so-and-so column / head can be made public immediately / on demand / after so many days.

The suggestions given above are from me as a person, and have nothing to do with the organisation I am working in.

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