

# Acknowledgments

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# Background

The CSO Sourcebook is an initiative of ADB's NGO and Civil Society Center (NGOC). The purpose of the Sourcebook is to enhance staff understanding of why and how ADB collaborates with civil society organizations (CSOs), and to provide guidance on how to cooperate with CSOs in a wide range of operational contexts so as to improve the positive impacts of ADB-assisted development initiatives. It also answers questions frequently asked by project officers regarding ADB interaction with CSOs.

The Sourcebook draws extensively on the experience and knowledge of ADB staff members who have worked closely with CSOs. It likewise draws on reports and evaluation studies relating to ADB-CSO cooperation, and on good practice at other intergovernmental organizations.

Although the primary audience of this publication is ADB mission teams and staff members at field offices who interact with CSOs, it is also relevant to other ADB personnel, as well as to consultants, executing agencies, implementing agencies, and to government ministries, departments, and offices. The CSO Sourcebook is accessible in hard copy format as well as on the internet at [www.adb.org/ngos](http://www.adb.org/ngos).

# Introduction

Civil society organizations (CSOs) play a significant role in the social, economic, and democratic development of the Asia and Pacific region. They manage billions of dollars in development funds that they raise themselves, or with which they have been entrusted by governments, foundations, individual benefactors, companies, and intergovernment organizations. CSO-led campaigns have stimulated international agreements and national commitments to address climate change, corruption, debt, genocide, HIV/AIDS, landmines, and the inequitable outcomes of globalization. CSOs are prominent advocates for increased development aid, and for lowering trade barriers faced by exports from developing countries to wealthy nations.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has long interacted with CSOs in various contexts. ADB–CSO engagement was highlighted by approval of the Policy on Cooperation Between ADB and NGOs (1998),<sup>1</sup> and by creation of the NGO and Civil Society Center (NGOC)<sup>2</sup> and the inter-departmental network of NGO/civil society anchors in 2001. ADB’s public communications policy, approved in 2005, has also facilitated ADB–CSO cooperation by improving the flow of information between ADB and civil society stakeholders.

Today, about three quarters of newly approved ADB-financed loan projects involve CSOs in one way or another, most often in the form of providing input into project design, mobilizing communities, conducting surveys, facilitating consultations, and implementing project components. CSOs are consulted extensively in the elaboration and review of major ADB policies and strategies, and their representatives regularly exchange views and information with operations department staff members through brownbag presentations, conferences, multistakeholder initiatives, and workshops.

The CSO Sourcebook provides background information on CSOs, examples of ADB–CSO collaboration, practical tips, and answers to frequently asked questions. Readers who find this publication useful may also find two other ADB publications relevant to their work: *Strengthening Participation for Development Results: A Staff Guide to Consultation and Participation* (2006), and the *Handbook on Social Analysis* (2007).

To ensure that the CSO Sourcebook remains of manageable scope, the publication does not attempt to address every possible scenario that might arise in ADB’s interaction with CSOs. Instead,

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<sup>1</sup> The 1998 policy superseded ADB’s inaugural policy paper on cooperation with NGOs, which was adopted in 1987. The 1987 policy paper viewed cooperation with NGOs as a means of supplementing ADB-assisted activities, and improving the effectiveness of ADB operations by drawing on the special capabilities and expertise of NGOs.

<sup>2</sup> The NGOC was launched as the NGO Center in 2001, but was renamed the NGO and Civil Society Center in 2005 to better reflect the broad range of civil society groups with which ADB interacts.

it focuses on two major subsets of CSOs with which ADB regularly interacts: nongovernment organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs). Little attention is given to ADB interaction with labor unions, for which a separate staff guide has been published.<sup>3</sup>

Additional information, guidance, and resources regarding CSOs are available from the NGOC (+63 2 632 6643, ngocoordinator@adb.org), and the following web pages:

- ADB's NGO/Civil Society website: [www.adb.org/ngos](http://www.adb.org/ngos)
- ADB's Participation website (including the Consultation and Participation Toolkit): [www.adb.org/participation](http://www.adb.org/participation)

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<sup>3</sup> *Interaction with Labor Unions: A Primer for ADB Staff* (ADB, forthcoming 2009).

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# Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AKF	Aga Khan Foundation
CBO	community-based organization
COSO	Central Operations Services Office
CPS	country partnership strategy
CSO	civil society organization
EA	executing agency
EOI	expression of interest
INGO	international nongovernment organization
JFPR	Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction
NGO	nongovernment organization
NGOC	NGO and Civil Society Center
OED	Operations Evaluation Department
PCP	public communications policy
PO	people's organization
PPTA	project preparatory technical assistance
QBS	quality-based selection
QCBS	quality- and cost-based selection
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

NOTE:

In this publication, "\$" refers to US dollars.