

DISABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Workshop

Organized by the Asian Development Bank and the Disabled Peoples International

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**REPORT OF THE
WORKSHOP ON DISABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT**

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Workshop was organized by the Office of Environment and Social Development. The sessions were chaired by Bank's senior staff from various departments in order to provide an opportunity for a wide-based initial exchange of views between the Bank and disability experts.

2. The Workshop on Disability and Development (TA-5564-REG) was held in Manila on 13-14 October 1999. The workshop was co-financed by the Asian Development Bank and the Government of Finland. The workshop participants represented focal point ministries or government agencies in the Region (14), nongovernment organizations (23), mainly organizations of disabled people, and multilateral organizations (7). The Workshop was initiated and planned in close cooperation with the Finnish Disabled Peoples International Development Cooperation Association (FIDIDA), that also together with the United Nations Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) assisted in the selection of participants.

II. WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES AND AGENDA

3. The Workshop on Disability and Development, the first of its kind in the Bank, provided a forum to learn about the disability perspectives from the stakeholders, particularly from disabled people themselves and their own organizations. Furthermore, it provided an opportunity to exchange views and network with the member governments.

4. The *overall objective* of this initiative was to contribute to the improvement of the well-being of people who have disabilities as members of their communities. Furthermore, as the participation of all people is essential for achieving the goal of accelerated growth and socially inclusive development, people with disabilities need to be recognized as one disempowered group in communities. As people with disabilities tend to be poor – and even the poorest of the poor – in their communities the issue falls under the Bank's strategic objective of poverty reduction.

5. *The purpose* of this workshop was to advise and assist the Bank in designing strategies on how to respond to the issue of disability within its mandate and operations. It is understood that an adequate comprehensive response requires coordinated action by governments, disabled people and their organizations, other NGOs, as well as the international community. The intended *results* of the workshop were:

- a. Increased awareness by the Bank's senior staff on the disability perspective.
- b. Concrete recommendations on actions to be taken within the next 3 years particularly by the Bank in collaboration with other stakeholders.
- c. A report that would serve as a basis for further action and would also contain some baseline information to be shared within the Bank.

6. The results were to give initial insight and answers to the questions

- a. Why is disability important from the Bank's perspective?
- b. What should be done by the Bank?
- c. How can it be done?
- d. Who should do what?

7. The *activities* in the program consisted of information sharing in the plenary and group work with focus on recommendations to the Bank.
8. The agenda was *organized* under four steps:
- a. Situation analysis
 - Stakeholder perspectives
 - Reviewing the needs of ultimate beneficiaries
 - Mapping challenges and opportunities in general
 - Identifying the challenges and opportunities for the Bank to address the issue of disability within the framework of poverty reduction strategy
 - b. Designing elements to improve the performance of ADB on mainstreaming social dimensions of poverty; and
 - c. Identifying follow-up actions on mainstreaming the need and concern of disabled people into ADB's operations.
9. The central issues on which the recommendations were focused consisted of the following:
- a. how to sensitize the governments of the needs, rights, and potentials of disabled people to be incorporated in a major Bank development investment;
 - b. how can the capacity of the Bank be improved to take into account the disability dimension in the poverty reduction strategy; and
 - c. how can a more effective and meaningful participation of disabled people be achieved at the community level.

III. DISABILITY CONCERNS AND THE ADB STRATEGIES

A. The ADB Mission

10. One out of three Asians is poor and has to survive on less than one US dollar per day. There are about 900 million poor people in the region. ADB's new strategy on poverty reduction is a direct response to the fact that despite economic growth poverty remains endemic in Asia. The strategy states that "Poverty is an unacceptable human condition. It is immutable; public policy and action can, and must eliminate poverty. This is what development is all about."¹ Poverty reduction has been singled out as the overarching objective of the ADB. The Bank supports the international development targets established at a series of world summits in the 1990s which included targets on the reduction of poverty and the eventual elimination of absolute poverty.

11. Poverty reduction strategies need to be comprehensive to address its many causes. ADB strategy notes that "For this reason, the twin pillars of pro-poor sustainable economic growth and social development are seen by the Bank as the key elements in any framework for reduction of poverty. Success for either requires sound macroeconomic management and good

¹ R-179-99 : *Fighting Poverty in Asia and the Pacific – The Poverty Reduction Strategy of the Asian Development Bank*, 19 October 1999.

governance." The strategy defines pro-poor economic growth as "labor intensive and accompanied by policies and programs that mitigate inequalities, enable access of the poor to basic social services, and facilitate income and employment generation of the poor, particularly women and other traditionally excluded groups."

12. The Bank sees poverty as multidimensional and not limited to low incomes only. "Poverty is a deprivation of those essential assets and opportunities to which every human is entitled. Everyone should have access to basic education and primary health services. Beyond income and basic services, individuals and societies are also poor – and tend to remain so – if they are not empowered to participate in making decisions that shape their lives. Poverty is thus better measured in terms of basic education, health care, malnutrition, water and sanitation, as well as income, employment and wages. Such measures must also serve as a proxy for other important intangibles such as feelings of powerlessness and lack of freedom to participate."²

B. Disability and Poverty

13. People with disabilities are predominantly vulnerable and poor by many dimensions. While their employment levels and incomes tend to be only a fraction of that of non-disabled people, they also are deprived from participation and opportunities available to others. Many physical, social and attitudinal barriers restrict their access to basic services. Disabled people are very likely to be disempowered and excluded in their societies.

14. One person out of ten is estimated to have a disability. There are thus some 250 to 300 million people with disabilities in the region. Close to 200 million (5 percent) have severe or moderate disabilities and would thus need specific services or assistive devices in order to participate in the life of their communities. Disabled people are by any indicator poorer than the non-disabled sections of the population³. For instance, less than 5 percent of the 93 million disabled children in the Asian and Pacific Region receive any education or training. Often disabled people belong to the poorest of the poor and have no other means to survive than relying on charity and dependency on others. For many, lifetime exclusion is the only option available from childhood onwards.

15. Poverty renders people in a precarious and unhealthy living and working environments. It causes disabling illnesses that would be preventable at a relatively low cost per person. Long lasting or permanently disabling illness of any member exposes the whole family to a high risk of falling into poverty.

16. Any social, economic, or environmental shock hits harder those people who are already vulnerable and have less resources to cushion themselves against the consequences, ex ante, or to cope with the consequences, ex post. People with disabilities are by definition more vulnerable than most other groups and also within their own population segments. Children and women with disabilities can be the hardest hit in times of economic, environmental, or social crises because they suffer from double exclusion.

² Ibid.

³ While comprehensive studies on disability and poverty are not available for the region, it has been extensively documented that the human development indicators such as those on health, education, employment, incomes and housing conditions of disabled people are all over the world are far below of the indicators of non-disabled populations.

17. Indicative evidence on poverty and disability is abundant but comprehensive studies on the linkages are not available. The lack of comprehensive information on the poverty of disabled people is another indicator of their marginalized and invisible status in their societies. The obvious linkages between poverty and disability deserves urgent attention in the development context.

C. Linkages of the disability dimension to ADB's poverty reduction strategy

18. Economic growth can eliminate poverty only if accompanied by a comprehensive program for social development as well as good governance. It is analytically and practically useful to review the elements of the social dimension in the light of the developments in the 1990's and the priorities set by the Bank's poverty reduction strategy.

1. Including disability concerns into the Bank's revised development paradigm and the mainstream policy framework of poverty reduction and socioeconomic development

Disability concerns need to be incorporated in the social dimension policy frameworks and, subsequently, guidelines. The social dimension of inclusive development that supports economic development within the limits set by environmental factors has three distinct elements, that need to be kept analytically separate and that are addressed through separate measures in operations. However, in a comprehensive development framework, all these three elements require simultaneous and well orchestrated interventions. These elements are the following:

- a. The development of social organizations and structures to make social and economic outcomes more predictable, sustainable and responsive to the needs and potentials of all members of society. It would entail, for instance, establishing and supporting, (i) rule of law and legitimacy, (ii) mutual trust, (iii) social and environmental responsibility by the government, citizens, civil society, and the private sector, (iv) good governance – including sound economic and environmental management, (v) equalization of opportunities and the principle of non-discrimination, (vi) participation and empowerment of vulnerable groups, and (vii) equity in distribution of the benefits of development.

Additionally, all these concerns would contribute to the strengthening of social capital and, at best, would create a virtuous cycle of development.

- b. Social sector development with a widened focus in order to be pro-poor. In addition to the traditional collective infrastructural services, increased focus should be given to the development of personal social services, to provide targeted support to improve or restore people's capacities for self-reliance. Thus, a comprehensive social sector "service package" contains the following elements: (i) Collective infrastructure services (water and sanitation, communications, adequate shelter/housing); (ii) Maintenance and reproduction of human capital such as education, health: curative services, rehabilitation, health promotion and the prevention of illnesses (including environmental health and occupational health services)⁴; and (iii) Social protection such as social security, contributory social

⁴ R28-29: *Policy for the Health Sector* (February 1999). Also in the health sector there is a need to improve the sensitivity to disability issues.

insurance (public or private), non-contributory social assistance (in cash or in kind), and promotion and preventive, rehabilitative social (welfare) services as well as care-taking (as a last resort).⁵

19. Reduction of poverty and exclusion and the consideration and inclusion of people who are at risk and vulnerable requires a proactive approach. This would imply measures that empower the poor and vulnerable to organize to improve their capacities for self-reliance. It also requires the orientation of social protection towards an active and empowering "springboard" approach away from passive "safety nets" that do not provide routes and resources to escape from poverty back to self-reliance. This, in turn, implies the supplementation of the last resort safety net — that caters to basic needs — with resources and support services aimed at improving the coping capabilities of the clients (self-help groups, skills learning, advocacy, etc.)

20. Prevention of disabilities, appropriate medical and rehabilitation services, and the equalization of access and opportunities of disabled people to contribute to and to benefit from development can be accommodated within such a comprehensive mainstream framework rather than as a specific issue requiring specific solutions and structures. To enable disabled people to fully participate in society, there is also the need for specific services that are not catered by mainstream services. A disability sensitive approach in mainstream development activities can drastically reduce a need for disability-specific services⁶.

2. Introducing disability dimension into poverty analysis

21. The definition of poverty and its dimensions adopted in the Bank's strategy provide a useful framework for human and social development highly relevant from the perspective of the prevention of disabling conditions, generation of appropriate support services and structures and the equalization of opportunities for disabled people to contribute to the reduction of poverty, as well as to social and pro-poor economic development. Particular attention should be given to the need to empower vulnerable people to get organized to speak about their needs, aspirations, and potentials. If the analysis seems not to be able to identify disability groups or concerns, it is often a clear indication that there are serious problems for disabled people to be heard and to be visible in their societies.

3. Country strategies

22. An adequately conducted poverty analysis and policy dialogue would provide the information required to assess the relevance and magnitude of the disability dimension in the country. Poverty analysis and other sector studies, in turn, should provide an opportunity to assess the disability concerns in the sectors. The Bank's Country Operational Strategy and the Partnership Agreement could include disability concerns as well.

23. Subsequently, where relevant, the disability concerns could be reflected in the Country Assistance Program, Poverty Focused Project Identification, Project Preparatory Technical Assistance, Project Loan, Sector Loan and Program Loan .

⁵ Promotive and preventive social welfare services include activities such as community mobilization, community development, information dissemination, responsible life style promotion etc. Rehabilitative services through social work support the restoration of self-reliance. Care-taking refers to the intensive services that substitute self-reliant coping.

⁶ For instance, special school or institutions, or the removing of physical barriers as the populations are aging.

24. In poverty interventions geared to target the poor, disability is a highly relevant concern. In core poverty interventions that tackle extreme poverty, disability as a consequence and as a cause of destitution is obvious.

25. The prerequisites for the inclusion of disability concerns into the Bank's operational cycle could be tentatively as follows:

- a. Making the decision in principle that the disability dimension is relevant to poverty reduction;
- b. Developing a framework that mainstreams disability concerns into the social and economic dimensions of development and into the Bank's social and poverty assessment process;
- c. Creating awareness by member governments of the relevance of disability as part of their development concerns;
- d. Creating awareness among Bank staff of the implications of the poverty focus and the relevance of disability as an effect, as a cause and as a general issue of relevance in certain sectors;
- e. Identifying and employing technical know-how and appropriate instruments to guide the Bank's mainstreaming processes and in project design;
- f. Adapting existing instruments to be disability sensitive; and,
- g. Establishing a follow-up system that provides opportunities to all stakeholders to reflect on lessons learned.

IV. THE CURRENT ROLE OF ADB IN THE DISABILITY AREA

26. In the wake of rapid social and economic changes in the Asia and the Pacific region, vulnerable groups including disabled people have become increasingly marginalized. Economic growth should provide the material means for expansion of opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in society. Yet measures are needed to ensure that: (i) disabled people have full access to such entitlements, (ii) are able to benefit from general improvements in people's quality of life, and (iii) are protected from some of the adverse consequences of rapid change and economic growth. In countries whose economies are in transition from a command and centrally-controlled economy to one that is market-oriented, services that were hitherto provided may deteriorate due to lack of resources or introduction of user-charges which may not be affordable by the poorest section of population. In post-conflict countries, injuries sustained in conflict and the damage caused to infrastructure and the economy would normally cause the number of disabled persons to increase. Often this means that the existing services specifically addressing the needs of disabled people are unable to function.

A. The Bank's Policies and Interventions Relating to Social Development

27. The Bank has adopted poverty reduction as an overarching goal. This aims to improve the standard of living and quality of life of the people in the region. The Bank's other strategic development objectives are: (i) promotion of economic growth; (ii) support to human development including population planning; (iii) improvement in the status of women; and (iv) sound management of natural resources and the environment.

28. In addressing social dimensions, Section 47 of the Operations Manual states that the Bank seeks to:

- help the poor by providing (i) directly targeted assistance to support and enhance their employment and income productive activities and; (ii) improved access to health, water supply, sanitation, family planning, education, social security, and related services;
- promote activities and policies that help women develop their potential, and increase their productivity and their share in the rewards of development; and
- provide social safety nets and compensation mechanisms, particularly for vulnerable groups (e.g., children, indigenous people, people who are economically and socially disadvantaged, disabled persons) that may be adversely affected by project interventions and are unable to absorb the resultant economic, social, and environmental impact.

29. The Bank has accepted certain duties and responsibilities in relation to its activities and their impact on vulnerable groups together with importance attached to achieving more equitable development within DMCs.

30. The Bank needs to carry out an initial social assessment in all its projects, screen them, and where necessary, establish gender, resettlement, indigenous people's and participation plans as well as poverty impact assessments.

31. A wide variety of activities are supported by the Bank and many of these affect or interact with the lives of disabled people. The Bank's strategic objectives, as listed above, and its various policies, relating to for example, gender and development and indigenous peoples, demonstrate the Bank's guiding philosophy that development is in the interest of all people, particularly for the poor, women, and vulnerable groups. This is expected to contribute to economic growth and to social harmony which is essential also in sustaining economic growth.

32. While the Bank does not have a specific policy on disability and development, it can integrate the disability concerns into the existing screening processes described above. The Bank has also addressed this issue in its operations particularly in educational sector. For example, in 'Second Junior Secondary Education Project' (Indonesia), and the Basic Skills Project (Cambodia).

B. Disability challenges in the sectors in which the Bank lends

33. Some concerns of disabled people, such as those relating to physical access to the built environment also apply to other groups of the population such as older people. Other issues are more specific, for example, the special provision of special educational services for the disabled.

34. In order to address disability concerns to a relevant extent, it is necessary to study the disability relevance of the sector and its development activities. An initial proposal on how to initiate a disability sensitive preparation process of a development intervention is based on United Nations manual⁷:

- a. All development programs and projects should be screened for their disability relevance to ensure that the outcome is barrier-free and not handicapping.

⁷ STAKES, UN, NRDCWH. 1996. *Disability Dimension in Development Action: Manual on Inclusive Planning, Finland*. This recommendation was presented by the Ambassador of Finland at the Workshop.

- b. All mainstream activities that are highly relevant for disabled people should be planned with the intensive involvement of disabled people. All activities within the health, welfare, education, housing, and employment sectors should belong to this category.
- c. The ownership of the projects targeted specifically to people with disabilities should be handed over to people with disabilities themselves.
- d. Best practices and success stories promote further success and should be shared as common property within the region.

V. SITUATION ANALYSIS: DISABILITY CONCERNS IN THE REGION

35. This chapter enumerates briefly the main themes that arose from the workshop papers and discussions.

A. The multidimensional concept of disability

36. While disability can be a consequence of illness it is not a health issue, as such. A person with a disability can be in good health or he/she can be ill as anyone else. It is necessary to distinguish between the physiological, personal, and social dimension of disability. The currently used WHO standard terminology makes a distinction between impairment (physiological), disability (personal) and handicap (social), as described below.

- an **impairment** is any loss or abnormality of psychological, physiological or anatomical structure or function;
- a **disability** is any restriction or lack of ability (resulting from an impairment) to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being;
- a **handicap** is a disadvantage for a given individual, resulting from an impairment or disability, that limits or prevents the fulfilment of a role that is normal depending upon age, sex, social and cultural factors, for that individual.

37. Disability can affect anyone any time. Disability is a continuum of weaknesses and strengths. Visual impairment ranges from conditions fully correctable by glasses to low vision and blindness. Mobility ranges from world sports champions to minor problems caused, for instance, by mild arthritis or old age, to quadriplegic conditions requiring the disabled person to have access to a full time personal assistant and various technical aids. The cutting point is always a matter of convenience and convention. There are permanent and temporary disabilities, visible ones as well as hidden ones.

38. For policy analysis and design it is vital to understand that the origin of handicaps, i.e., disadvantages of people with disabilities, could be physical, social, economic, and cultural. Handicap is an issue of the "rules of the game".⁸ For instance, if a person who needs to use a wheelchair cannot enter a movie theatre on the second floor, the cause is not the disability but the lack of a ramp or elevator.

⁸ The term actually originates from horse races. It means the disadvantage imposed on a participant on the basis of certain rules of the race.

B. Lack of comparable information

39. The estimates on the prevalence of disability vary from country to country and also within countries. Typical estimates are between 5 percent and 15 percent of the population at large. In the Philippines there are 7 million disabled people out of whom 75 percent live in rural areas (Ilagan)⁹. Reliable, valid, and comparable estimates are difficult to come by as there are differences in definitions. Also, disabled people are invisible in their communities and subject to underreporting. The problem is further complicated by the influence of age structures on overall figures.

40. However, figures that describe the proportion of disabled people in the population grossly underestimate the disability as experienced by people. The incidence of disability over people's life cycle is higher than any periodic prevalence figure. Moreover, disability statistics usually fail to describe the handicaps. Furthermore, many of the handicaps, i.e., disadvantages, often affect the entire family of a disabled person.

41. For the Asian and Pacific region there are also no substantial statistics on the socio-economic status of disabled people. (Ilagan)¹⁰ A regional baseline study is needed. It should address the disability issue in a comprehensive and multidimensional manner in order to be policy relevant. Information on disability should be compiled on the following issues:

- the prevalence of disability (disaggregated by gender and age)
- types of disabilities
- the distribution (by urban-rural residence and relevant socio-economic strata)
- risk factors and causes
- preventive measures undertaken
- the extent, coverage and nature of rehabilitation services
- access and participation rates of disabled people to other basic societal services
- measures to equalize opportunities for disabled persons
- ongoing strategies
- service gaps

42. Statistics and survey data will always be incomplete. Improving access and services should be the priority of action, as there is enough information that already exists to guide action.

C. The link between poverty and disability

43. The causes of disability are multidimensional. Poverty is not the only cause of disability. There is a vicious circle between poverty and disability. Poverty increases the risk factors such as communicable diseases, poor nutrition, hazardous living and working conditions, etc. Disabled people, in turn, are handicapped, that is disadvantaged, in their societies due to physical, social and cultural barriers that prevent them from fully and equally participating in social, economic, political and cultural activities. The resulting dependency and marginalization of a disabled member in a family will in the end affect the quality of life and opportunities of

⁹ Ilagan, Venus M. 1999. *Actual Needs of Disabled People in Rural and Urban Areas*. Kapisanan ng Maykapansanan sa Pilipinas, Inc. (KAMPI), Manila.

¹⁰ Ibid.

whole family. Furthermore, people who live in poverty have few opportunities to protect themselves from the consequences of eventual disability.

D. Key concerns of disabled people's organizations in the Region

44. In the Asian context, a number of common key problems in the region were identified by the workshop participants in the contributed papers and in the discussions. The common concerns are:

- a. **Legislation** is still underdeveloped. In several cases, policies and legislation discriminate against people with disabilities or restrict their participation. Women with disabilities are particularly affected and subjected to discrimination, violence and abuse.
- b. **Public awareness** is still weak. Disabled people are not recognized in their societies as full members to be taken into account on equal terms with others. Awareness of the abilities of disabled people is particularly weak and overshadowed by prejudice and ignorance.
- c. Poor accessibility of the **built environment** restricts normal daily activities and renders disabled people "invisible". New infrastructure development continues to be done without sufficient consideration to accessibility. Inaccessibility is prominent in public transportation, public buildings and communication. In addition to disabled people, many population groups, such as the aged, vendors with their carts and children, are affected by the same barriers. This will pose an increasing problem as the Asian populations are aging rapidly. Improving accessibility by applying basic quality standards can be achieved by minor additional costs when taken into consideration in the planning stage.
- d. There is a general scarcity of **education** opportunities in the region. People with special needs are even worse off in this regard. There are 93 million children under 15 years of age with disabilities in the region. Less than 5 percent of them receive any education. Disabled girls are even worse off than boys. Lack of access to education leads to lack of access to work or poor quality jobs and poor livelihoods and subsequently to lifelong poverty.
- e. Disabled people – whatever their capabilities – lack access to **vocational training** and are often trained into trades for which there is no demand or that do not provide decent livelihoods. Access to self-employment is also limited by lack of access to credit and other support services. Employers' awareness of disabled people's abilities is also poor and tends to enforce marginalization.
- f. **Rehabilitation** services are not accessible or affordable to the majority of disabled people in the region, particularly for those living in rural areas. Also, the quality of existing services is sometimes poor. Access to low-cost and appropriate assistive devices is very limited and the cost renders disabled people dependent on their families. Community-based rehabilitation has proven to be a feasible and cost effective solution that improves the access of disabled people to functional rehabilitation and affordable assistive devices.

- g. The **organizations** of disabled people themselves have proven to be effective in improving the visibility status and opportunities of disabled people.
- h. **Policy implementation** is deficient, as the governmental mechanisms do not function effectively and do not respond adequately to the needs of disabled people.

E. Improving the response to disability concerns in the developing member countries

45. The list of disability-related problems is endless in the region. Measures targeted to disabled persons are necessary only when there are special needs to be addressed. It is not, however, possible, neither advisable, to cater to the needs of disabled people through specific measures, such as special schools. This would be an endless task. Preventing the incidence of disability can be done in the framework of general programs to improve health and living environments. It is also possible to prevent the emergence of handicaps by mainstreaming the disability dimension and a broad concept of accessibility into the general systems and operations. This is also the one of the means to reduce the need for special disability specific services in many sectors.

46. There is a need to review the situation in a comprehensive manner and identify key areas of intervention that would have systemic effects.

- a. Prevention of disabling conditions should be adopted as a central social and health consideration in all sectors.
- b. Accessibility should be taken as a central and natural quality criterion in infrastructure development.
- c. The consideration of the disability dimension in policies towards "basic societal services for all" should be a standard practice.¹¹ The key areas in this respect are

Collective infrastructural interventions

- transport and communications
- water and sanitation
- housing
- community development
- urban and rural development
- improving access to land
- improvement of nutrition

Investment in human capital

- education including vocational training
- health, including occupational safety and health

Employment and prerequisites of sustainable livelihoods

¹¹ "Basic social services for all" is one of the central strategies of follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development.

- formal employment programs
- informal sector development
- microenterprise development

Social protection and social services

- social insurance
- social welfare services
- social assistance

- d. Disability concerns should not be left to the social welfare sector. Rather, as guided by the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Disabled Persons, every sector has a primary responsibility for the disability issues arising in the sector concerned. The awareness of planners and government agencies of the existence and needs of disabled people in their target groups should be improved.
- e. The orientation of development support should be systematically geared towards an enabling and empowering approach (a springboard approach) rather than a passive safety net approach that does not involve support for efforts to escape from vulnerability and poverty. Services should be packaged in such a manner as to establish a logical path to escape from dependency (e.g., rehabilitation-vocational training-microfinance–management and marketing support). A package of supporting services should be incorporated with economic support.
- f. Modalities for public private partnership and the involvement of the business sector would need to be studied and good practice disseminated, particularly in employment creation and social services. The capacities of disabled people and their organizations should be more effectively explored and utilized. This requires capacity building of all partners to enable them to understand each other.
- g. Multisectoral work should be promoted and narrow division of labor should be discouraged by crossing the inherited administrative boundaries by establishing interagency groups.
- h. The existing knowledge and guidelines should be more effectively utilized and adapted to suit each country as well as international contexts.
- i. Gender disparity and the rights and potential of children with disabilities require special attention.
- j. Approaches towards social capital investment in development efforts by encouraging the widening of social responsibility and networks should be studied and developed.
- k. The economics of disability in particular, and cost-benefit comparisons between existing practices and benefits and alternative integrated or mainstreamed approaches need further attention.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE WORKSHOP

47. Concluding group session discussions were organized around three key themes:
- a. how to sensitize the governments of the needs, rights and potentials of disabled people;
 - b. how can the capacity of the ADB be improved to reflect the disability dimension in the poverty reduction strategy;
 - c. how can a more effective and meaningful participation of disabled people be achieved.
48. The recommendations generated during the Workshop are presented below. The ADB perspective was presented following each group presentation.¹²

A. Sensitizing the Governments

49. Bank loans and the nature of its operations are demand driven. Sectors for which there are no demand by the client governments cannot be focused in Bank's work. However, the Bank has adopted a number of general quality criteria and designed consequent guideline instruments. Furthermore, ADB is engaged in policy dialogue and capacity building with its customers and donors.

50. At the national level, the demand for disability sensitive approach to development requires key players, e.g., policy makers, parliament members, and staff of line ministries, particularly the ministries of finance and national development planning bodies to pay more attention to the needs and concerns of disabled people.

Recommendations by the working group on sensitizing the Government:

- a. Using or adapting existing guidelines, materials and expertise in the region (e.g. ESCAP guidelines).
- b. Strengthening the capacity of NGOs and disabled peoples organizations (DPOs) to better monitor inclusion and pressure on the inclusion of disability concerns.
- c. Using existing institutions and mechanisms, such as National Disability Councils and national umbrella organizations rather than establishing new mechanisms.
- d. Making an explicit reference to disability in the documentation, whenever relevant, rather than indirectly "implying" that disability will be covered as part of the concerns, say for instance, on vulnerable groups.

B. Strengthening the capacity of the Bank to take into account the disability dimension in the new poverty reduction strategy

51. As an immediate result of the workshop, disability concerns will be incorporated into the Bank's poverty reduction strategy. Poverty reduction is the overarching objective of the Bank.

¹² It should be noted that these comments are interpretations by the rapporteur.

It will be the main vehicles to mainstream disability concerns into the center of the Bank's agenda.

52. The operations of the Bank are transparent and planned in a participatory manner. The transparent and participatory processes provide an opportunity to incorporate the concerns of disabled people.

Recommendations by the working group in strengthening the capacity of the Bank to take into account the disability dimension in the new poverty reduction strategy:

- a. Incorporating awareness on disability issues into the Bank's technical assistance programs.
- b. Ensuring the transparency of Bank operations, for example, by "public hearings".
- c. Incorporating the disability dimension into the Bank's development initiatives at the very early stage.
- d. The inclusion of disability concerns into the Bank's current strategic and operating frameworks need to be worked into its guidelines and terms of reference of consultants.
- e. Disability concerns can also be included in dialogues with governments.
- f. According to the current operations guidelines consultation with stakeholders are required in the project area.
- g. Developing guidelines and checklists can facilitate the implementation of a more disability-sensitive approach.
- h. The monitoring arrangements should, however, be practical in order not to overburden the planning and implementation processes.
- i. Disability should be handled and seen in the context of the larger picture of poverty reduction and social development.
- j. The guidelines on social dimension should be revised to include disability concerns.
- k. Disability concerns need to be explicitly included into the poverty reduction strategy.
- l. The social screening of the Bank's projects should include an analysis of likely impacts of people with disabilities.
- m. ADB must match its commitment to disability with appropriate resource allocation and reallocation.
- n. ADB must ensure that a person with expertise in disability and poverty reduction be appointed (e.g. to the poverty reduction unit).

- o. The Training Unit should prepare technical information on disability and arrange for the development of a training module on disability.
 - p. Checklist should include questions on disability issues and a list of the stakeholders and experts who may be contacted in country consultations.
 - q. A regular dialogue should be instituted to monitor and evaluate Bank activities relating to disability, identify emerging needs, and new ways of meeting needs (e.g., an external forum on disability).
 - r. ADB should network with existing inter-organizational networks on disability.
 - s. Adequate consultations with stakeholder groups with disability expertise should be established while preparing a disability relevant project.
 - t. Every project should have impact indicators, which explicitly reflect what has been achieved for disabled people, particularly in terms of reduction on their poverty and vulnerability.
 - u. ADB studies should specifically examine disability and poverty links.
 - v. ADB should support the development of national capacity to gather information concerning disability (new indicators, analytic tools) and effectively disseminate this information.
 - w. ADB documents should be made accessible to the different target audiences (e.g. reports in summary forms, using simplified language and style, video reports, etc.).
 - x. Good practice on mainstreaming disability in development interventions should be collected and disseminated.
53. In response to the working group recommendations, the Bank noted that:
- a. The draft poverty reduction strategy will incorporate a reference to disability. All other proposed steps can only be taken over time not overnight because of the Bank's limited resources and the eventual revision of resource allocation would require time.
 - b. The in-house expertise in disability and poverty will be considered.
 - c. The Office of Environment and Social Development can revise existing guidelines provided adequate resources can be mobilized.
 - d. The Bank already produces its materials in national languages. Accommodating special needs will be considered, where relevant.
54. The Bank sees the recommendations are generally feasible and they can be incorporated in the Bank's procedures in the course of time. To include disability in more specific terms requires work on the social dimension guidelines. There are also resource implications to be specific and solved.

C. Ensuring meaningful participation of disabled people at community level

55. In the Bank's strategies, participation of all people – particularly vulnerable groups – is seen as essential to poverty reduction, and accelerating and maintaining pro-poor economic growth and social development. In the planning and implementation of Bank operations, a participatory approach (PA) is seen to ensure the relevance and quality of the outcome.¹³

Recommendations by the working group to ensure meaningful participation of disabled people at community level:

- a. ADB should identify and make use of existing organizations of disabled people at the national level as well as in the area of operation.
- b. As disabled people are predominantly poor and marginalized in their communities it is, at times, necessary to first support the organizing of people with disabilities in order to make them "visible" and to empower them to make their voices heard, e.g.,
 - Develop leadership at grassroots level.
 - Tap local expertise (e.g., in the government agencies, social workers, organizations of disabled people) for the initial identification and mobilization of disability groups.
 - Support the development of human resources in the organizations.
 - Use key figures as role models and advocates.
- c. Establishing appropriate consultation mechanisms.
 - as disabled people tend to have less education and experience in participation it is necessary to choose an appropriate method and forum for consultation (e.g. focused group discussions, community dialogue, etc.).
 - It is necessary to establish consultation at various levels.
 - Caution should be exercised not to bypass or exclude organizations of disabled people in favor of welfare organizations for disabled people. At the national level, consultations on country strategies should involve the umbrella organizations and/or a National Council on Disability when in existence.
 - As various disability groups often have differing needs and strengths, it should be ensured that relevant disability groups will be heard.
- d. Utilizing the expertise of disabled people
 - It is important to involve disability groups in relevant project identification, monitoring and evaluation.
 - ADB should institutionalize the involvement of representatives of disabled people/their organizations.
- e. Identifying and applying examples of good pilot practices in consultations
 - a pilot initiative can be staged to apply existing experience of good practice
 - available guidelines should be utilized and adapted to the ADB.

¹³ Jalal, Kazi F. 1996. *Mainstreaming Participatory Development Processes*. Manila: Asian Development Bank.

- f. The concerns of disabled people should be included in the existing ADB procedures and guidelines.
- g. Integration of disability issues in other areas. A mechanism should be instituted for the identification of disability relevant issues in areas where they are not right away obvious. This can be done with an appropriate screening instrument and/or commissioning such screening tasks to disabled people or their organizations.
- h. A disability desk should be established at the ADB.

ADB's Response:

56. Within the current participation framework and the existing ADB principles and practice concerning participation it should not be difficult to enhance the participation of disabled people. For instance, appropriate representation can be accommodated in needs assessment committees in major disability relevant programs. Establishing a disability desk at ADB needs to be explored further. There is also the issue of division of labor regarding the mobilization of disabled people. Many of the tasks of mobilization and capacity building can best be done by disabled people's organizations.

VII. AN OUTLINE FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTION

57. The purpose of the workshop was to support the mainstreaming of disability concerns in the Bank's operations. It was suggested that the Bank takes follow-up action in respect to two main recommendations of the workshop, namely:

- a. the strengthening of the capacity of the ADB to adequately address the disability dimension in relation to its poverty reduction strategy and operations; and
- b. the strengthening of the capacity of the DMCs to mainstream disability in their poverty reduction efforts.

58. The follow-up action could be designed under a regional technical assistance (RETA) in 2000. The RETA could be presented to the Government of Finland for co-funding.

The components of the RETA could consist of the following:

- a. Conducting a review to establish clear connections between disability and poverty reduction and to identify the major issues for the Bank to address in this respect.
- b. Review of the Bank's existing guidelines with an objective to incorporate disability concerns into these guidelines as relevant. The guidelines to be reviewed could include (i) initial assessment; (ii) poverty impact assessment; (iii) participation; and (iv) consultations and participation.
- c. Developing sector-specific checklists in key sectors where the Bank is active, that are relevant to disability concerns.

- d. Carrying out national consultations on poverty and disability with the selected DMCs and to incorporate the DMC concerns to the above guidelines.
- e. Organizing a regional meeting at the end of RETA to share the experiences in the region and to work out a regional action plan on disability and poverty.
- f. Develop training material for the Bank and DMCs on disability and poverty reduction.
- g. In collaboration with ESCAP and DMCs to support development of appropriate databases and statistics.

59. Within the Bank, a regular consultation mechanism could be established to ensure incorporation of disability concerns into the planned instruments. The Bank should also collaborate with the disability NGOs.

VIII. EVALUATION OF THE WORKSHOP

60. An evaluation form was distributed to the participants at the end of the workshop. The overall response varied from positive to very positive, with the exception of a few critical respondents.

61. It was acknowledged that the workshop was a first of its kind. Expectations were high, but also somewhat diffused and unclear. Generally, the expectations by most of the participants were met and the objectives set for the workshop were seen to have been achieved. The workshop was seen as a good start in a partnership process that was expected to continue. The distributed material was considered very useful. All practical arrangements were fine. The duration of the workshop was either seen too short or appropriate. The logistics functioned well.

62. Pre-workshop information was considered too meager by a number of participants. Knowledge of ADB and its functions was unclear for many participants despite the availability of such information on, for instance, the Internet. The distributed materials were found useful. The structure of the program divided the participants. Half of the participants were satisfied while the other half was not. The structure was criticized for the fact that "inputs that provided direction" came only on the second day. Group discussions were considered functional. However, ad hoc group discussions held on the first day were not seen useful but those of the second day were considered good. The participants welcomed the participation of the senior Bank staff as chairs of sessions although it created some discontinuities in facilitation. Bank staff participation in discussions was found to be inadequate. In general, the participants welcomed the initiative taken by the Bank to organize the workshop.

63. In conclusion, future workshops of this nature would benefit from more time of the consultant for on-site preparations with the ADB staff to ensure clarity of focus. The participation of senior staff at substantive workshops is a good practice and sends a positive message. All the facilitators/chairpersons of sessions should, however, meet beforehand to achieve a joint understanding of objectives, the process and the envisaged results. It would also be useful to arrange a joint meeting of all the facilitators to "compare the notes" and to share the conclusions after the workshop. Information on ADB should be sent beforehand but should still be presented at the beginning of the workshop in situations where the majority of participants have

not been previously working with the Bank. When the background of participants is heterogeneous, enough time should be allocated for group discussions to make room for various perspectives to be presented and a focussed dialogue to be established. The guidance by the organizers is, however, needed to ensure that dialogue keeps focusing on the core issue of the workshop. At the Disability and Development Workshop, the heterogeneity of perspectives were managed by all stakeholders in a constructive and forward-looking manner that laid a good ground for future dialogue, networking, and cooperation.

Appendix 1

WORKSHOP ON DISABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT
Asian Development Bank Headquarters, Manila
ADB Main Hall; 13-14 October 1999

Program

| <i>TIME</i> | <i>ACTIVITY</i> | <i>SPEAKER</i> |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| WEDNESDAY, 13 OCTOBER | | |
| 8:00 – 8:30 | Registration | |
| 8:30 – 9:00 | <i>Opening Ceremony</i> | |
| | Welcome Remarks | Dr. Kazi F. Jalal Chief, Office of Environment and Social Development, ADB |
| | Opening Statement | Mr. Peter H. Sullivan Vice President (East), ADB |
| | Keynote Address | H.E. Pertti Majanen Ambassador of Finland |
| 9:00 – 9:30 | Coffee Break | |
| 9:30 – 9:45 | <i>Workshop Agenda</i> | Mr. Ronald Wiman ADB Consultant |
| 9:45 – 11:00 | <i>Session One: Theme - Disability and Development</i> <i>Chair: Mr. G.H.P.B. van der Linden, Director, Programs Department (West) ADB</i> | |
| | ADB Social Development Concerns | Ms. Anita Kelles-Viitanen Manager, Social Development Division, ADB |
| | Problems of Disability Groups | Mr. Narong Patibatsarakich Chairperson, Disabled Peoples' International (Asia Pacific Region) |
| | Mainstreaming Disabled Peoples' Concerns into a Government's Agenda: Challenges and Future Prospects | Ms. Felicidad Villareal Undersecretary Policy, Plans and Programs Department of Social Welfare and Development (Philippines) |

| TIME | ACTIVITY | SPEAKER |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| 11:00 – 12:00 | <u>Discussion</u> <i>Chair: Ms. Yuejiao Zhang, Assistant General Counsel, ADB</i> | |
| 12:00 – 1:30 | Lunch | |
| 1:30 – 3:00 | <u>Session Two: Theme – Disability and Independent Living</u> <i>Chair: Mr. Hans Springer, Deputy Director, Agriculture and Social Sectors Department (East) ADB</i> | |
| | Actual Needs of Disabled People in Rural and Urban Areas | Ms. Venus Ilagan President, Disabled Peoples' International (Philippines) |
| | Gender Equity and Disability Movement | Mrs. Gauri Chatterji Joint Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (India) |
| | A Perspective on Prosthetic and Orthotic Service Provision, Cambodia and Beyond | Mr. Carson Harte Director, Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics |
| | A Perspective On the Concept of Independent Living in Cambodia with a Case Study on Skills Training and Income Generation | Mr. Larrie Warren Country Director, Veterans of America Foundation |
| | Mainstreaming the Disability Dimension in Social Development Agenda | Mr. Ronald Wiman ADB Consultant |
| 3:00 – 3:30 | Coffee Break | |
| 3:30 – 5:00 | <u>Discussion</u> <i>Chair: Mr. Preben Nielsen, Manager, Water Supply, Urban Development and Housing Division (West) ADB</i> | |
| 5:30 – 7:00 | <u>Cocktail Reception</u> At Private Dining Rooms 2 to 4 | |
| <u>THURSDAY, 14 OCTOBER</u> | | |
| | <u>Session Three: Theme – Disability: Constraints & Opportunities</u> <i>Chair: Ms. Christine Wallich, Director, Infrastructure, Energy & Financial Sectors Department (West) ADB</i> | |

| TIME | ACTIVITY | SPEAKER |
|---------------|---|--|
| 8:30 – 10:00 | Disabled People and Their Concerns | Mr. Kalle Konkola Chairperson, Disabled Peoples' International |
| | Role of ADB in the Development Programs for Disabled People | Ms. Sri Wening Handayani Social Development Specialist, Social Development Division, ADB |
| | Disability and Access to the Job Market | Ms. Barbara Murray Senior Specialist in Vocational Rehabilitation, International Labour Organization (ILO) |
| | Mobility Challenges of Disabled People: Architectural Barriers in Environment and Transportation | Ms. San Yuenwah Social Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | Coffee Break | |
| 10:30 – 12:00 | <u>Discussion</u> <i>Chair: Mr. Johannes van Heeswijk, Agriculture and Rural Development Division (West) ADB</i> | |
| 12:00 – 1:30 | Lunch | |
| 1:30 – 2:30 | <i>Working Groups Around Selected Theme</i> | |
| 2:30 – 3:00 | <u>Group Reports</u> | |
| 3:00 – 3:30 | Coffee Break | |
| 3:30 – 4:30 | Discussion on Future Strategies and Action Plan for Mainstreaming Disabled Peoples' Concerns in Bank's Projects <i>Chair: Mr. Karti Sandilya, Assistant Chief, Office of External Relations, ADB</i> | |
| 4:30 – 5:00 | <u>Closing Ceremony</u> | Dr. Kazi F. Jalal Chief, Office of Environment and Social Development, ADB |

Appendix 2

**WORKSHOP ON DISABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT
Manila, Philippines
13-14 October 1999**

List of Participants

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Appendix 3**OPENING REMARKS
by Kazi F. Jalal,
Chief, Office of Environment and Social Development**

Good morning distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the Asian Development Bank and to this Workshop on Disability and Development.

It is my pleasure to introduce to you our Vice President, Mr. Peter Sullivan. It is also an honor for me to introduce to you His Excellency, Pertti Majanen, the Ambassador of Finland to the Philippines, who is here with us today to deliver the Keynote Address. Last but not the least, let me introduce to you, my distinguished colleague, Anita Kelles-Viitanen, Manager of our Social Development Division.

The idea of convening this workshop came about during a meeting with the Finnish delegation at the Asian Development Bank's Annual Meeting in Geneva in 1998. Mr. Kalle Konkkola, chairperson of the Disabled Peoples International, who was then a member of the Finnish delegation to our Board of Governors' Meeting made the most important contribution to this idea. Since then, with financial and technical assistance from Finland, we are now able to organize this important meeting, the first of its kind in this organization. Our special thanks go to Finland, and Mr. Ambassador, I would like to convey our gratitude to your Government for this gesture. We are also thankful to Mr. Ronald Wiman, an authority on the subject of disability and development.

Allow me to make just two points on the subject of the meeting. First, with over 500 million disabled people all over the world, of whom 350 million are living in areas where they do not receive the services needed to overcome their difficulties, the linkage between development and disability is very clear. Your participation in this workshop will help enlighten us as to how the issue can be properly addressed in our operational activities in the Asian Development Bank. Any prescription in the form of a framework or guideline for disability assessment should be based on the cumulative knowledge of the participants of this workshop. I therefore encourage all of you to please participate actively in the discussions that we will have in the next two days. Secondly, after reading some of the papers of this meeting, I realize that there is a definitive need for the development of national statistics on disability. For the purpose of developing a meaningful action plan for the disabled, it would be useful and even necessary for us to know the typology and causes of disability, and to identify the needs and aspirations of each group of disabled people. The means to mainstream persons with disabilities may vary among the different groups. This is why we need better disability statistics for our purpose.

With these words, may I invite Mr. Peter H. Sullivan, Vice President of the Asian Development Bank to deliver his statement. Thank you.

Appendix 4**OPENING STATEMENT
by Mr. Peter H. Sullivan, Vice President (Region East) ADB**

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen – good morning.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the participants in this Workshop on Disability and Development. I am pleased to note that we have participants from the developing member countries, government and nongovernment organizations, and bilateral and multilateral institutions. I would like to express my special thanks to our co-sponsor, the Government of Finland, and I warmly welcome His Excellency the Ambassador of Finland, Mr. Pertti Majanen to the Workshop.

There are over 500 million persons with disabilities worldwide, or 10 percent of the global population. According to United Nations estimates, more than one person in ten has a physical, mental or sensory impairment or disability. When the impact on the families of the disabled is taken into account, at least 25 percent of any population is adversely affected by disability.

Among the poor in developing countries, the proportion of disabled people can be as high as 15 or 20 percent. At least 350 million disabled persons are living in areas where they do not receive the services needed to enable them to overcome their limitations. Disabled people tend to be among the most disadvantaged in their own communities. Particularly in low-income countries, the disabled poor are often among the poorest of the poor.

Poverty and disability are inextricably linked. This link works two ways. Disability adds to the risk of poverty, and conditions of poverty add to the risk of disability. Poor households do not have adequate food, basic sanitation, and access to preventive health care. The poor live in lower quality housing, and frequently work in demanding or more risky physical environments. The disabled people in developing countries are more likely to have lower education and income levels than the rest of the population. They are also less likely to have sufficient savings and other assets. Furthermore, the disabled poor tend to be viewed in their own communities as marginal community members and a burden to their communities.

Too often physical and social barriers hamper their participation as full-fledged members in society. Physical barriers such as lack of adequate or appropriate transportation, physical inaccessibility, and inadequate learning facilities also affect access of disabled people to education and employment, reducing their opportunities for income enhancement and social participation. This impact is enhanced by social and attitudinal barriers. Disabled people are particularly vulnerable to stigmatization, neglect, and physical, social or psychological abuse. Marginalization or exclusion reduce their opportunities to contribute productively to the household and the community, and increase their risk of falling into poverty.

The number of disabled people is growing. This is partly a result of population growth in the developing countries, and partly an outcome of increasing life expectancy, and the accompanying increase in the number of elderly, who generally have higher disability rates. Studies show that the proportion of elderly people living at or below the poverty line is much higher than that of younger people.

The Asian financial and economic crisis has had severe social implications in the affected countries. Public budgets have suffered large cutbacks, while the crisis has placed increasing demands on public welfare, health, and education systems. Budgets for programs for disabled people are small or marginal to start with and have often suffered disproportionately. The crisis has also witnessed cutbacks in charitable donations. At the same time, as employment and incomes have dropped, so has household expenditure on education and health care.

As a consequence, the poor and vulnerable have suffered disproportionately. Disabled people have been severely affected, because their low income and education levels provide them with fewer options for coping with the crisis. The crisis has drastically reduced both the support available to the disadvantaged and disabled and their opportunities to contribute productively to the community and economy.

During the 32 years that the ADB has been in existence, the focus of our operations has shifted from funding physical infrastructure to supporting more broad based development. With its overarching objective of poverty reduction, the Bank's goal must be to bring more and more people into the economic mainstream, to promote equitable access to the benefits of development regardless of nationality, race, gender or disability. This – the challenge of inclusion – is the key development challenge of our time.

How is the Bank responding to the challenge of inclusion? The Bank has established policies and guidelines on social assessment, gender and development, involuntary resettlement, indigenous peoples, and cooperation with nongovernment organizations to ensure that its programs and projects do not harm the people for whom they were designed. These provide the framework for the Bank to reflect the concerns of vulnerable people in its activities. At an early stage of all projects, the Bank carries out initial social assessments to identify vulnerable groups and their concerns. Based on these assessments, the Bank carries out detailed analysis of the issues identified to ensure that projects are formulated with full consideration to the concerns of vulnerable groups.

Bank projects address the question of disability in two ways. First, disability specific projects are those in which disabled people or organizations are target beneficiaries, either specifically or as part of a more general target of vulnerable groups. For example, in our Second Junior Secondary Education Project in Indonesia, a study was carried out to identify disabled children eligible for special education. Another example is the Basic Skills Project in Cambodia, which includes a strategy to provide income and employment-generating opportunities for special groups, including the disabled.

Second, Bank projects particularly in the health sector contribute to preventing disability. Several of our health projects stress maternal and infant health, since it is at these stages that many - but certainly not all - disabilities begin. Better nutrition for pregnant women means healthier, higher birth-weight babies and therefore less likelihood of ill-health leading to deafness or blindness. Good nutrition is also linked to better brain development and therefore to fewer learning disabilities. For example, in addressing the social impact of the Asian crisis in Indonesia, the Bank's Health and Nutrition Sector Development Program is providing support for maternal and infant nutrition, as this will significantly reduce the incidence of future learning disabilities.

The scale of the challenge is enormous, and the Bank still has a lot to learn. Partnership, I am convinced, must be a cornerstone of our efforts, and our partnerships must be inclusive –

involving the United Nations and other multilateral organizations, bilateral organizations, regional organizations, NGOs, foundations, the private sector, and disabled people themselves.

The issue of disability and development, and how best to address the issue in an organization such as the Asian Development Bank, is a challenge for all of us. I expect that there will be a lively discussion on this and I look forward to learning about the experience of different agencies and organizations in supporting and mainstreaming the needs and interests of disabled people into their development agendas.

Your contributions and ideas are of vital importance in developing an agenda of future action for the region that can be shared by us all.

Thank you.

Appendix 5**KEYNOTE ADDRESS
by Ambassador Pertti Majanen, Finland**

Distinguished workshop participants, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends.

I am delighted to have an opportunity to join you today and to share our joint concern for the disabled people in the region. The major objective of the workshop would be to turn this concern into concrete action within ADB's activities. Once the topic of the workshop calls for wide partnership, joint action and regional cooperation, the invitation to this workshop has been extended to the Governments of the region, to local and regional NGOs emphatically representing the disabled people themselves, and to international organizations. I am happy that our invitation has been widely accepted, and on behalf of the Finnish Government I wish you all a warmly welcome. I am confident that with your diverse backgrounds and professionalism you are exactly the correct combination of people to be able to come up with ideas and proposals for concrete action. I wish you the best success at your work.

During the last few years ADB has developed from a traditional infrastructure-oriented financing institution to a more comprehensive development financing institution. Finland with other like-minded countries has been supporting this development. Today the new agenda of the Bank covers many intersectoral and cross-cutting issues like those of environment, social development, gender and good government. As part and parcel of this development the Finnish Minister for Development Cooperation, Mr. Pekka Haavisto drew a very strong attention to the status of the disabled in his address to the ADB Annual Meeting in Fukuoka 1997. The same trend continued in the Geneva meeting last year when Mr. Kalle Könkkölä - also present here today - was called to be a member of the Finnish delegation as a special representative of the disabled. These efforts led to the organizing of this workshop funded jointly by Finland and ADB. On behalf of the Finnish Government I am pleased to note that the ADB leadership and the Office of Environment and Social Development have so positively and efficiently responded to our initiatives and organized this workshop. I firmly believe that this decision reflects the ADB's strong commitment towards a new social agenda also incorporating the disabled.

In this connection I also wish to commend the ADB for launching the preparation of a new poverty reduction strategy. There is a direct link between disabilities and poverty: the majority of disabled people live in developing countries. Approximately every sixth person classified as poor is also disabled. Disabled persons are infrequently unable to work productively, and thus become impoverished more easily than the rest of the population. On the other hand poverty also causes new disabilities as a result of poor and dangerous living conditions, malnutrition, lacking health care and many other poverty-related circumstances. From this perspective the new ADB poverty strategy should also cover the issue of disability. It should not form a separate section of the strategy, but rather be integrated in the strategic mainstream, even if there always remains a need for special projects for people with special needs. Once the ADB poverty strategy - according to my information - still exists in a draft form, I believe that this workshop can still contribute concretely to the contents of the strategy. I would hope that this workshop could tackle the disabled issue in its totality from prevention to cure, from integration to special needs.

An Italian proverb says: "The one who depends on another man's table, often dines late." Dependence on the good intentions of other people makes persons with disabilities

objects of charity, and deprives them of the opportunity for mastering their own lives. The best guarantee for the continuous improvement of the status of persons with disability is their own active involvement in the decision making processes that concern them. This holds in the field of international development cooperation as well. The voice of the disabled people has to be heard in the mainstream. They have a very special and unique potential to contribute: they are the true experts on the needs and the aspirations of people with disabilities. They sit on the driver's seat. In addition to the benefit of possessing a professional driving license, they can serve as an enormous source of encouragement to the multitude of those who still lack self-confidence and self-esteem. I am especially delighted that we have so many drivers in this workshop. It is a pre-qualification for success.

In the very beginning of my address I was proclaiming concrete and action oriented proposals from this workshop. Let me conclude by lining out a few examples from a similar Nordic exercise in order to illustrate the art of the possible:

- all development programs and projects should be screened for their disability relevance to ensure that the outcome is barrier-free and not handicapping
- all mainstream activities that are highly relevant for disabled people should be planned with the intensive involvement of disabled people. All activities within the health, welfare, education, housing and employment sectors should belong to this category
- the ownership of projects targeted specifically to people with disabilities should be handed over to people with disabilities themselves
- best practices and success stories promote further success and should be shared as common property within the region

The Asian Development Bank is a major actor in promoting economic and social development in the region. We have great confidence in the Bank as a proponent of welfare, which will be further strengthened through its emerging poverty strategy. We are delighted to note that the Bank has included in its agenda one of the most vulnerable groups of people by organising the Workshop on Disability and Development. With this we jointly aim at full participation and empowerment of disabled people. I am confident that the Bank will promptly and efficiently make use of the results of this workshop when preparing its strategies and planning its projects.

I wish you a successful, practical and action-oriented workshop. Thank you for your attention.

Appendix 6

CLOSING REMARKS
by Kazi F. Jalal
Chief, Office of Environment and Social Development

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.

I am very pleased to be here at the closing of this meeting. My colleagues have briefed me about the outcome of the Workshop and I am pleased to learn about your fruitful discussions on disability and development.

The purpose of this initiative is to use your expertise in support of global and regional efforts to improve the quality of life of millions of disabled people throughout the world and particularly in respect of the Asia Pacific Region that the Bank serves.

Your meeting, as Vice President Sullivan had said, is very timely and appropriate. The chairman of the previous session has already assured you that the poverty reduction strategy, which is at its final stage of formulation, will include a reference to disability as part of the poverty reduction strategy of the Bank. Had this meeting probably taken place a week later, we would not probably achieve that. This is a great achievement as far as all of us are concerned.

I have noted with great pleasure that there has been much interest in this meeting from the participants' side about the Bank, what it does, and how it operates. I regret that the time that we had at our disposal was not enough for us to introduce the Bank, what it does, what it stands for, what are the procedures and policies in various arms of the Bank. But I hope we were able to give you some flavor through the chairing of the sessions by our senior staff. We have also circulated information leaflets about the Bank and its operations. If there is further demand, please visit our website or contact us directly.

I have been told and I can confirm that the Bank staff and management have learned a great deal about disability issues. The interest and understanding of disability issues has increased among the Bank staff and management during the past 48 hours. This has been another success of this meeting. We shall study your recommendations very carefully and seriously. We will incorporate your suggestions as appropriate into our strategies and procedures. We will consider those suggestions as we plan for a follow-up to this meeting. There will be no delay in doing this. We need to keep in mind that there are various actors whose participation would be crucial in keeping this initiative going. There are actions that need to be taken not only by the donor agencies such as ADB and ESCAP, but also by the governments, the parliamentarians, civil society, including the disability groups and other NGOs. I assure you that the Bank will fully take into account your recommendations and the Bank will work hand in hand with your groups and governments in pursuing this agenda for action.

I thank all of you for being with us for these two days and for giving us the wisdom of your experience in the area of disability and development. I would like to extend our thanks once again to the Government of Finland for not only the financial and technical support, but also for the initiative that the Government of Finland had taken to make this Workshop possible. I also extend my thanks to my colleagues in the Bank, the senior staff who had chaired and all the other staff who have been working very hard, at least for the last few days to make this meeting happen here today. I wish to thank all of you once again, and I hope you will have a very pleasant journey back to your home. Thank very much. The meeting is adjourned.

Appendix 7

**Workshop on Disability and Development
Responses to the Questionnaire**

A questionnaire that had been applied at another Bank workshop was adapted to this workshop. Twenty-five questionnaires out of 40 distributed were returned. The questionnaires did not contain pre-coded response options. When feasible, the responses were classified into simple broad categories. The resulting tables are presented below. The thrust of responses of "open-ended" questions are described verbally on the basis of the "typical" responses (i.e. those mentioned by three or more respondents).

1. How far was the workshop able to meet your expectations?

| | |
|--|----|
| Very well or well | 12 |
| Did not know what to expect but workshop turned out quite well | 6 |
| Not well | 5 |
| Unclear or no answer | 2 |
| Total | 25 |

2. Please elaborate its strength's and weaknesses

As strengths, following points were mentioned:

Right composition of participants (5); good discussions (4); staff and organization (5); facilities

As weaknesses the following were mentioned by more than two participants: Goals and focus were not set clear (6); not enough information on ADB was given during the first day (5).

3. What are the major lessons you took away from the workshop?

New knowledge on ADB and its strategies (14);

New knowledge on disability issues (6)

4. Was the workshop too long/short?

| | |
|-----------|----|
| Too short | 15 |
| All right | 9 |
| No answer | 1 |
| Total | 25 |

5. What topic, if any took too little or too much time?

There was too little information on ADB (4 respondents).

6. Did you find seminar materials very useful/useful/not useful ?

| | |
|-------------|----|
| Very useful | 7 |
| Useful | 18 |
| Not useful | - |
| No answer | 1 |
| Total | 25 |

7. *How could such a workshop be improved?*

Various individual suggestions were made. More than once were mentioned the following: more focus (4); more case studies (3); more pre-session information (2).

8. *Were the pre-workshop travel arrangements handled well?*

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Very well | 6 |
| Well | 13 |
| No clear opinion | 3 |
| Not well | |
| No answer | 6 |
| Total | 25 |

9. *Were the ground transportation and accommodation arrangements in Manila handled well?*

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Very well | 6 |
| Well | 12 |
| No clear opinion | 1 |
| Not well | |
| No answer | 6 |
| Total | 25 |

10. *Was the workshop program structured satisfactorily?*

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Yes | 12 |
| Yes with reservation | 4 |
| No | 8 |
| Total | 25 |

11. *Were the presentations satisfactory?*

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Yes | 16 |
| Yes with reservation | 7 |
| No | 1 |
| Total | 25 |

12. *Were the group discussions helpful?*

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Very helpful | 2 |
| Yes, helpful | 12 |
| Yes with reservations | 4 |
| Second day better | 5 |
| Not helpful | 2 |
| Total | 25 |

13. *Is the ADB dealing with disability issues satisfactorily?*

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Very well | 1 |
| Yes, for a start | 14 |
| Hard to say | 3 |
| No | 5 |
| No answer | 2 |
| Total | 25 |

14. *Were the objectives of the workshop achieved?*

| | |
|-------------|----|
| Yes | 14 |
| Hard to say | 3 |
| Unclear | 4 |
| No answer | 3 |
| Total | 25 |