



A quarterly newsletter of the Gender Network

Newsletter No. 4, April–June 2003

The quarterly newsletter aims to facilitate the exchange of information on the Asian Development Bank's (ADB's) gender and development (GAD) activities and resources both within and outside ADB. For any inputs/feedback/questions, kindly send them to Shireen Lateef (Telephone 632-5620; E-mail: slateef@adb.org) or Zarah Zafra (Telephone 632-6995; E-mail: zmzafra@adb.org).

Gender Network Secretariat

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A. Events: Internal and External

1. External Events Supported by the Social Development, Gender, and Social Protection Committee

ADB, represented by Michaela Prokop, Economist of the Pacific Department (PARD), participated in the 2003 Conference on Feminist Economics at the Cave Hill Campus, University of West Indies, Barbados from 27 to 29 June. The Conference, cosponsored by the International Association for Feminist Economics and the Centre for Gender and Development Studies, University of West Indies, had several panels related to gender-sensitive budgeting. Other panels include (i) comparative analysis of the gender and race dimension of contingent work and informal labor markets; (ii) African Diasporic women and communities; (iii) effects of reproductive technologies and social policy on fertility rates and demographic trends; (iv) gender dimensions of macroeconomic policies; (v) globalization, work, and women's human rights; (vi) tourism and gender; (vii) transmigration: social and economic challenges; (viii) transforming the development paradigm through engendered leadership; and (ix) women's international feminist alliances for social and economic challenges. Ms. Prokop also used the opportunity to visit the Caribbean Development Bank and other regional organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme office in Barbados, which is administering the Caribbean Support for Poverty Assessment and Reduction Program. Her participation in the Conference was cofinanced by the Social Development, Gender, and Social Protection Committee and PARD.

The Committee also cofinanced the participation of Scott Ferguson, Resettlement Specialist of ADB's East and Central Asia Department, in the Seminar for Development Finance Institutions for Incorporating Social Criteria into the Investment Process, 10-13 June in Brussels, Belgium. The 5-day seminar was aimed at addressing core labor standard issues, social impact assessment, and the role of nongovernment and community-based organizations. Mr. Ferguson delivered a presentation on the current status of ADB's social policies and procedures for social safeguards for public and private sector projects. The event was organized by the European Development Finance Institutions.

2. Conference: Gender Mainstreaming and Intersectionality in the Region

Shireen Lateef, Principal Social Development Specialist of ADB's Regional and Sustainable Development Department (RSDD), was a keynote speaker in the recently held "Think Tank", a 2-day high-level dialogue on gender mainstreaming and intersectionality held on 3-4 July in Brisbane. The meeting was aimed at increasing constructive dialogue and developing solutions on gender and development among the Australian development community. The "Think Tank" dialogue has two themes: (i) gender mainstreaming: beyond the rhetoric; and (ii) intersectionality and gender: forging ahead. This activity was organized by the International Women's Development Agency in collaboration with the world YWCA. Outcomes of the activity will be featured in the Development Bulletin journal of the Australian Development Studies Network. The dialogue will facilitate a wider discussion at a national/regional conference in 2004.

3. Conference: Sharing Anti-Trafficking Initiatives and Best Practices in Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United States

The Conference on Sharing Anti-Trafficking Initiatives and Best Practices in Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United States (US), held on 18 June in Washington, DC, was organized by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The Conference was aimed at (i) discussing initiatives and best practices to combat human trafficking; (ii) raising awareness of the development problems posed by human trafficking at the social and institutional levels; (iii) creating an opportunity for interaction among Latin American and the Caribbean, Asia and US

through a network that will benefit member countries; and (iv) obtaining information needed for project preparation. ADB was represented in the Conference by Karti Sandilya, Resident Director, Northern American Representative Office, and Helen Thomas, ADB Consultant. They presented ADB's experience in Asia on integrating trafficking concerns into poverty reduction operations, including findings from the recently completed ADB study on Combating Trafficking of Women and Children in South Asia.

4. Gender and Water Networks Meet with Gender and Water Alliance

A letter of intent (LOI) on Gender and Water Partnership was signed between ADB and the Gender Water Alliance (GWA) at the 3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto, Japan on 18 March 2003. The Partnership committed ADB to mainstream and support gender issues in ADB's water operations. Actions identified in the LOI include (i) developing a work program, (ii) gender capacity building for ADB staff and executing agencies, (iii) developing good practices, and (iv) facilitating country and regional dialogue. This Partnership will also explore establishing a gender panel as a mechanism for regular dialogue between ADB and GWA on ADB's water sector initiatives and activities.

On 27-28 May, Jennifer Francis, GWA Executive Secretary, visited ADB for discussions with ADB staff on developing the Partnership's action program. Ms. Francis met with the Water Sector and Gender Networks to discuss potential activities under the action program. A draft letter of agreement was prepared, identifying specific areas of collaboration.

5. Gender and Development Orientation for Judiciary and the Program Management Office

Gender issues were discussed on 29 May by Susanne Wendt, Social Development Specialist, Southeast Asia Department, before the Philippine Committee on Gender Responsiveness in the Judiciary and the Program Management Office in Manila. The presentation was part of a Gender and Development Orientation for the Philippine Supreme Court's Committee on Gender Responsiveness in the Judiciary and Program Management Office.

6. Film Screening: Walking for Water—Empowering Women of Banaskantha District

"Walking for Water—Empowering the Women of Banaskantha District" was screened during the blue bag seminar held on 9 May in ADB headquarters. It was the second film produced under ADB's Water Awareness Program. The film shows how women in Gujarat, through the Self-Employed Women's Association, have transformed themselves into effective managers of water supply.

7. International Organization for Migration Staff Visit to ADB

ADB staff met with Md. Shahidul Haque, South Asia Regional Representative, International Organization for Migration (IOM) during his visit in Manila on 8 May. IOM's Dhaka Regional Office closely collaborated with ADB on a technical assistance on Combating Trafficking of Women and Children in South Asia. During his visit, Mr. Haque presented a brown bag seminar on the nexus between migration, globalization, and development, with emphasis on trafficking of women and children.

8. **Second Bali Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons, and Related Transnational Crime**

At the Second Bali Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons, and Related Transnational Crime held on 28-30 April, ADB was represented by Jan van Heeswijk, Director General, Regional Sustainable Development Department. The Conference aimed at reaching a consensus on ways to promote regional efforts to combat people smuggling, trafficking in persons, and related transnational crimes based on the principles agreed at the first Bali Regional Ministerial Conference (BRMC) in February 2002. The reports of the two ad hoc expert groups, established after the first BRMC, were presented. Group I was established to promote regional and international cooperation, while Group II was to assist States to strengthen policy-making, legislative arrangements, and law enforcement practices. The Conference was co-chaired by N. Hassan Wirajuda, Indonesia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Alexander Downer, Australia's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

9. **International Symposium: New Vision for Gender Policy—Equality, Development and Peace**

Nepal's experience on gender and local governance was presented by Ava Shrestha, Gender and Development Specialist, Nepal Resident Mission, at a symposium on 17-18 April in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The presentation on Partnership of Stakeholders and Good Governance was based on a pilot project funded under a regional technical assistance on Gender and Development Initiatives, which tested how local government structures can effectively address gender concerns.

B. GAD Achievements/Activities in ADB

1. **Cooperation Fund on Gender and Development Approved**

A Gender and Development (GAD) Cooperation Fund was approved by ADB's Board of Directors on 15 May to assist ADB in accelerating implementation of the GAD policy and action plan. The objective of the Fund is to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the Asia and Pacific region. The Governments of Canada, Denmark, and Norway have made initial contributions totaling US\$4.2 million. As a multidonor Fund, it is open to contributions from other member countries that are willing to support GAD initiatives in the region.

2. **External Forum on Gender and Development Phase 2 Approved**

Phase 2 of a US\$150,000 technical assistance for the External Forum on Gender and Development (EFG) was approved on 25 April. This technical assistance will support the continuation of the EFG as a vehicle to more effectively mainstream gender issues in ADB's operations. The technical assistance will support (i) periodic meetings of the EFG; (ii) participation of EFG members in gender training, seminars, and other activities at ADB headquarters and in developing member countries; and (iii) preparation of related background documents and reports.

3. **Including the Gender Advisory Technical Assistance in the Forthcoming Philippine Country Strategy and Program Update**

The Philippine country strategy and program update (CSPU) 2004–2006, currently under preparation, are proposed to include three gender advisory technical assistance (i) Gender Responsive Public Policy and Administration (2004); (ii) Strengthening Women's Involvement in Development at Regional Level (2005); and (iii) Impact Evaluation of Gender Mainstreaming (2006).

4. **Proposed 2003 Loans with Gender and Development as Theme**

ADB's 2003 pipeline includes potentially 18 loans with gender and development thematic classification and 16 additional loans with effective gender mainstreaming. These loans include projects for the water, health, agriculture, education, microfinance, and transport sectors. The loans are subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

5. **Update on Gender Technical Assistance Projects**

- **Regional: Enhancing Gender and Development Capacity in DMCs, Phase 2.** The following gender and development (GAD) Specialists for resident missions have been recruited, and assume their positions during June and July 2003.
 - Samvada Kheng, Cambodia Resident Mission (effective 2 June)—Ms. Kheng's previous experience includes being Gender Focal Point for the United Nations Children's Fund in Cambodia and the Women's Association in Cambodia.
 - Leya Cattleya, Indonesia Resident Mission (effective 8 July)—Ms. Cattleya is currently working with the Australian Agency for International Development in Jakarta as a Program Manager, focusing mainly on governance. She previously worked as a Consultant with various international firms.
 - Shiranee Mills, Sri Lanka Resident Mission (effective 30 June)—Ms. Mills is currently working with Canadian International Development Agency in its Sri Lanka office as a Gender Specialist. Since 1998, she has been working on various donor-funded projects broadly in the social development, poverty, and gender areas.
 - Ms. Mekhri Khudayberdiyeva, Uzbekistan Resident Mission (URM) (effective 16 June)—Ms. Khudayberdiyeva held the position of Gender Specialist in URM since June 2000 under Phase 1 of this regional technical assistance. Prior to URM, she worked with the United Nations Development Programme and various government departments, and as a Consultant on ADB technical assistance.
- **Indonesia: Gender Equity in Policy and Program Planning.** Under this technical assistance, a national workshop was conducted in Jakarta on 1–2 June. The workshop's objective was to disseminate lessons learned from the technical assistance in mainstreaming gender concerns in policy and program planning at local level. The workshop focused on four topics: (i) advocacy strategies at local level to gender-sensitize decision makers, (ii) institutional framework for mainstreaming gender at local level, (iii) approaches and methods to analyze policies and program to become gender-responsive, and (iv) best practices in implemented gender-responsive community-based activities. Visit <http://adb.org/Common/404.asp?404>; <http://adb.org/gender/country/in0001.aspx> for updates.
- **Fiji Islands: Women's Plan of Action.** The gender audits of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture have been finalized, and will be available at <http://adb.org/gender/country/fiji001.asp>. A Guide to Gender Mainstreaming has also

been prepared and published by the Ministry of Women and Poverty Alleviation. Activities under Part B of this technical assistance are ongoing and due for completion in 2004.

- **Viet Nam: Gender Mainstreaming for Agriculture and Rural Development.** Under Part A of this technical assistance, a Working Group formed in early 2003 prepared a draft gender strategy and action plan. The drafts were discussed at a workshop on 19 April and the objectives were prioritized for developing the action plan. A 4-day planning workshop was then held to develop the Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) Plan of Action for implementing the ARD gender strategy. This will be finalized through a series of working sessions and consultations. Workshops are being planned in July to discuss and finalize the ARD gender strategy and plan of action. The strategy will be launched in late August.

Under Part B, the Viet Nam Women's Union is currently conducting a series of gender training in several provinces: Kon Tum, Quang Tri, Quang Binh, and Hue. The field-level training focuses on raising awareness of gender equality issues, developing gender analysis skills, using gender analysis tools adapted for local agriculture and rural development activities, and developing monitoring and evaluation systems with sex-disaggregated data and gender indicators. Through training, the concepts of mainstreaming gender into public services are being introduced. For updates, visit <http://adb.org/gender/country/vie001.asp>.

- **Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR): Capacity Building of the Lao Women's Union.** The Government of the Lao PDR and ADB have agreed earlier this year to expand the scope of this technical assistance. Additional activities will include (i) conducting a comprehensive gender analysis in preparing a Northern Region Development Strategy (NRDS) under the Lao PDR: Northern Region Strategic Action Plan; and (ii) updating the Lao PDR gender assessment. The paper will analyze gender and poverty issues in the northern provinces of the Lao PDR and propose ways to address these issues through the NRDS. The preparation of the country briefing paper on women is expected to commence third quarter of 2003. For updates, visit <http://adb.org/gender/country/lao001.asp>.

6. **Update on the Trafficking of Women and Children Initiatives**

Follow-up initiatives to a regional technical assistance on Combating Trafficking of Women and Children in South Asia include working with governments and civil society to develop specific anti-trafficking components in pipeline loan projects. In the Bangladesh Road Network Improvement II Project and the India National Highway Corridor Development (Sector) Project, the inclusion of a component to combat HIV/AIDS and trafficking in women and children has been supported by the respective governments. The component promotes partnerships with the ministries/departments concerned with HIV/AIDS and human trafficking, and the locally based nongovernment organizations that will implement various awareness raising, prevention, referral, and empowerment initiatives on these issues. ADB's Mekong Department is also planning a regional technical assistance on anti-trafficking and safe migration for implementation in 2004.

The US Department of State released on 11 June its annual *Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report*. This year's *TIP Report* may have implications for some developing member countries (DMCs). Governments deemed by the *TIP Report* as not making significant efforts in complying with certain minimum standards in preventing trafficking of persons (i.e., those listed on 'Tier 3' category) may face US opposition to assistance from international financial institutions, including ADB, effective 1 October. Kazakhstan, Myanmar, and Uzbekistan are included in the Tier 3 list. Consultations between ADB's Regional Sustainable Development Department and the regional

departments concerned are underway to discuss how to help these and other DMCs in this regard.

7. **GAD Initiatives in 2003 Loans**

A component for addressing HIV/AIDS and trafficking in a road project has been developed by Sri Wening Handayani, Social Development Specialist, of ADB's East and Central Asia Department. This component is part of the Bangladesh Road Network Improvement II Project, to be financed using loan funds. The component includes (i) strengthening the capacity of key stakeholders and enhancing skills in combating trafficking and addressing HIV/AIDS through training workshops, based on lessons gained from existing initiatives within the country; (ii) public awareness campaigns using print and broadcast media, town hall meetings, public consultations, and one-day workshops; and (iii) strengthening resource centers for HIV/AIDS and trafficking.

C. **Other GAD Issues/Concerns**

1. **Forthcoming Country Briefing Paper: Women in the Philippines**

The Women in the Philippines Country Briefing Paper (CBP) is being prepared. The paper will (i) provide an overview of gender-related developments in the Philippines; (ii) explore the basic capabilities of women and men in terms of health, education, and personal security; (iii) analyze the scope of women's productive capability in terms of economic participation and employment; (iv) examine the political capability of women on representation and decision making; and (v) provide a summary of policy and program responses for women, particularly those pertaining to ADB's country strategy for gender and development in the Philippines. For more information, contact Susanne Wendt, Social Development Specialist, Southeast Asia Department.

2. **Forthcoming Publication—Working in Partnership with Women's Nongovernment Organizations**

Case studies of partnerships with nongovernment organizations on gender projects funded under the regional technical assistance on Gender and Development Initiatives are being prepared. These will be compiled into a booklet and made available within the year.

3. **Other Publications**

The *Gender and Resettlement Checklist* and two trafficking publications—(i) *Combating Trafficking of Women and Children in South Asia: Regional Synthesis Paper for Bangladesh, India, and Nepal*; and (ii) *Guide for Integrating Trafficking Concerns into ADB Operations*—have been published and are already available from the Poverty Reduction and Social Development Division and at the Public Information Center. These publications are also available on-line:
http://adb.org/Documents/Manuals/Gender_Checklists/Resettlement/default.asp?p=gencheck
http://adb.org/Documents/Books/Combating_Trafficking/default.asp
http://adb.org/Documents/Guidelines/Combating_Trafficking/default.asp

4. **Gender Equality and Millennium Development Goals, World Bank, United Nations Development Fund for Women, and UN Millennium Project**

Goal 3 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)—to promote gender equality and empower women—is the focus of several recent publications by the World Bank and UN agencies. The World Bank's Gender and Development Group has published a paper on *Gender Equality and*

the MDGs (2003). It describes the importance of gender equality for achieving all MDGs. The paper lays out how attempting to meet the MDGs, without promoting gender equality, will both increase costs and minimize the likelihood of attaining the goals. Specifically, it aims to show (i) the strong linkages between gender equality and all the MDGs; (ii) how working for gender equality offers a compelling, win-win approach for policymakers and planners toward attaining and implementing the MDGs; and (iii) ways to integrate gender equality into MDG policies and interventions. For the full report, visit <http://www.worldbank.org/gender/>

The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) has published the second volume of its biennial *Progress of the World's Women 2002: Gender Equality and the MDGs* (2003). This report analyzes data relevant to the indicators for Goal 3, including girls' school enrollment and women's literacy, non-agricultural wage employment, and seats in national parliaments. The report shows countries' different rates of progress toward gender equality and women's empowerment, and discusses factors that influence achievement, together with possible innovations and improvements in measuring and monitoring progress. The report is available at <http://www.unifem.org/www.resources/progressv2/index.html>

The Task Force on Education and Gender Equality under the UN Millennium Project has also produced a background paper, *Promises to Keep: Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women* (2003), authored by Caren Grown, Geeta Rao Gupta, and Zahia Khan of the International Center for Research on Women. Ms. Grown is also a member of ADB's External Forum on GAD. The paper reviews countries' progress toward achieving gender equality and women's empowerment, and proposes a three-part framework for measuring and monitoring progress: capability (basic human abilities as measured by education, health, and nutrition); opportunity (access to assets, income, and employment); and agency (ability to make choices that can alter outcomes). The paper suggests new targets and indicators to supplement those already used for MDG 3, and identifies international mechanisms already available to support countries' progress in the three areas. The report is available at <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/documents/tf03genapr18.pdf>

5. International Financial Institutions Workshop on Country Analytical Work

The World Bank organized a panel on Country Gender Assessments for the Donor/International Financial Institution workshop on Country Analytical Work on 4 June in London. This workshop is aimed at promoting harmonization and/or collaboration among the major development cooperation agencies, and this year, for the first time, a session on country gender assessments was held. The workshop was co-hosted by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development at its headquarters in London. The workshop also included discussions on country environmental analysis and social protection reviews.

6. Joint ADB-United Nations-World Bank Country Gender Assessment: Cambodia

ADB, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and World Bank are preparing a joint country gender assessment (CGA) in Cambodia and are planning to work collaboratively to advocate gender equity. This collaborative initiative will combine the analysis of the World Bank CGA, ADB Gender and Employment Assessment, and the UNDP-UNIFEM gender assessments of the MDGs. The donor partnership on gender is an advocacy tool for government and donors to jointly and effectively support and work to promote gender equity. Elements of the partnership include documentation, information dissemination, and monitoring mechanisms for both the government and donors. The partnership is expected to be launched by December.

D. Useful Web Sites/Materials on GAD

Gender and Water Resource Guide: Mainstreaming Gender in Water Management by the United Nations Development Programme. A gender mainstreaming approach in water resource management leads to greater equality, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability. The guide, developed in collaboration with the Gender and Water Alliance and the Swedish International Development Agency, aims to assist development practitioners in mainstreaming gender within the context of integrated water resource management. It consolidates available materials and gives a quick guide to access existing information. The guide is available as a user-friendly interactive web version, see <http://www.undp.org/water/genderguide>.

Afghanistan: Women and Reconstruction by the International Crisis Group (ICG). In March, ICG published the report, which addressed the lack of a coherent policy on gender issues in Afghanistan. The report included recommendations to the transitional administration, judicial reform commission, international community, United Nations, and to the states participating in the International Security Assistance Force. Recommendations of the ICG include establishing family courts in each provincial center, with jurisdiction over matters related to divorce, compulsory marriage, child custody, and inheritance; and steps to ensure that judges are fully aware of the civil code and applicable international treaties to which Afghanistan is a signatory. Read the full ICG report at: www.crisisweb.org

Tracking Gender Development Under Economic Reforms, Continuity and Change in South Asia, edited by Swapna Mukhopadhyay and Ratna M. Sudarshan. The book examines conventional and nonconventional indicators of gender disparity, and assesses how disparities may be affected by changes in macroeconomic policy. The book highlights that conventional indicators on education, employment, and health status of women are usually available on official data, but very little information is available on nonconventional indicators, such as levels of gender-based mental stress and violence. This book takes a holistic look at a set of indicators across five South Asian countries, identifying common patterns and insights.

Gender Equity and Peace Building (2003) by the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW). The paper is a review of recent literature on gender issues in the context of conflict and post-conflict reconstruction. It was prepared as a background material for an international workshop on gender equity and peace building, jointly convened by ICRW and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). Key findings and research questions are presented in relation to the effective integration of gender concerns into policies and programs that shape post-conflict societies. Findings indicate a slow but positive shift in international opinion and understanding about the consequences of conflict on women and the importance of their participation in peace-building processes and post-conflict social transformation. Yet, gender discrimination continues through political exclusion, economic marginalization, and sexual violence during and after conflict, thereby denying women their human rights and constraining the potential for development. For a copy of the report, visit http://www.icrw.org/docs/gender_peace_report_0303.pdf.

Elderly Villager Joins Digital Era, British Broadcasting Corporation Daily E-mail. An elderly woman shows how computers can empower villages in the arid state of Rajasthan western India. For the full report, visit <http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/2/hi/technology/2940242.stm>

CNN. An article was posted on CNN about a young Indian girl, Nisha Sharma, who has become a celebrity for resisting her in-laws' demands for dowry and sending her groom to jail. Visit <http://edition.cnn.com/2003/WORLD/asiapcf/south/05/23/india.dowry/index.html> for the full article.

Publications on Women's Participation in Politics. For links to on-line publications concerning increasing women's participation in politics, visit <http://www.dev-zone.org/cgi-bin/links2/jump.cgi?ID=5246>

E. Upcoming Gender-Related Workshops/Activities

Women and Migration in Asia, Developing Countries Research Centre, 10-13 December, Delhi, India. The Conference seeks to explore the gender implications of migration processes within and across Asia and globally. Objectives of the Conference include (i) bringing together scholars from across Asia and other countries working in the broad thematic area of Women and Migration in a 3-day Conference; (ii) emphasizing an interdisciplinary approach in a comparative perspective that focuses on intra-Asia migration but also examines migration outside Asia; and (iii) disseminating the proceedings through a series of publications. For more information, you may contact drcworkshop@hotmail.com or visit <http://www.drcdu.org/women-migration.htm>.

World Bank Gender in Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper Meeting, 16–18 September, Cambodia. Shireen Lateef, Principal Social Development Specialist of ADB's Regional and Sustainable Development Department, will attend the meeting. The results of the meeting will be used as inputs in the 2nd East Asia Conference on Poverty in October.

Poverty, Trade, and Growth: Issues for Policy Research Conference, October 2003, Manila. The Conference is jointly organized by ADB and the International Development Research Centre. A special session on gender issues is proposed.

Expert Group Meeting on Prevention of International Trafficking and Promotion of Public Awareness Campaign, 22-23 September, Seoul. The meeting is aimed at determining efficient strategies and programs by preventing trafficking through an active exchange of related information and strengthening cooperation in the region. The meeting will have sessions on the roles of government, legislature, and law enforcement agencies in the prevention of trafficking. Sessions will also include the role of education and data compilation in the prevention of trafficking, the root causes of trafficking, presentation of best practices, Bali process working group meeting, and public awareness campaigns. Brahm Prakash, Director of ADB's Poverty Reduction and Social Development Division will be a guest at the meeting.

You can send your inputs, comments, or suggestions to Shireen Lateef, Principal Social Development Specialist, RSPR (632-5620; E-mail: slateef@adb.org) or Zarah Zafra, RSPR (632-6995; E-mail: zmzafra@adb.org).