



Gender Network News

The Quarterly Newsletter of Gender Network

ADB

Newsletter No. 5, July–September 2003

Inside Pages

A. GAD Achievements

1. Regional Technical Assistance Approved on Promoting Gender Equity and the Empowerment of Women
2. ADB-Gender Water Alliance Partnership Strengthened
3. Poverty and Gender Correlated
4. Country Gender Assessments—Update
5. Technical Assistance on Women's Plan of Action for the Fiji Islands: Progress
6. Regional Technical Assistance on Gender and Governance in South Asia: Progress Report
7. Public Seeks ADB Publications on Combating Trafficking of Women and Children

B. GAD Activities in ADB

1. Executive Director of UNIFEM Visits ADB
2. Seminar Held on the Struggle for Bonded Labor Children's Rights to Education
3. Fourth Meeting of the External Forum on Gender and Development
4. Sharing an Insider's View of the Millennium Project
5. Resident Mission Gender and Development Specialists Attend Annual Meeting and Workshop

C. External Events

1. Conference: Think Tank on Gender Mainstreaming
2. Conference: ICT's and Gender—Optimizing Opportunities
3. Workshop on Gender Mainstreaming in Agriculture: Cambodia
4. Workshop on Social Protection Schemes for Women in the Informal Sector
5. Second Regional Workshop on Gender and Poverty Reduction Strategies and Programs: Cambodia

D. Useful Web Sites and Materials on Gender and Development

E. Upcoming Gender-Related Workshops/Activities

The quarterly newsletter aims to facilitate the exchange of information on the Asian Development Bank's (ADB's) gender and development activities and resources both within and outside ADB. For any inputs/feedback/questions, contact Shireen Lateef (Telephone 632-6904; E-mail: slateef@adb.org) or Zarah Zafra (Telephone 632-6995; E-mail: zmzafra@adb.org).

Gender Network Secretariat

Contents

A. GAD Achievements

1. Regional Technical Assistance Approved on Promoting Gender Equity and the Empowerment of Women

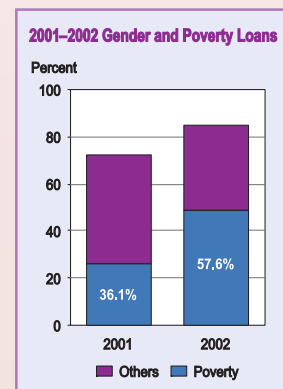
The umbrella regional technical assistance (RETA) for \$1.5 million to launch the Gender and Development Cooperation Fund has been approved by Management and submitted to the Board for a no-objection approval in November 2003. Under the RETA, funds will be available for the following activities: (i) support for country strategy and program activities; (ii) gender and development (GAD) support for ADB loan projects and programs; (iii) GAD capacity building; (iv) gender impact assessments; and (v) GAD partnerships.

2. ADB-Gender Water Alliance Partnership Strengthened

The Letter of Intent signed between ADB and the Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) at the World Water Forum in Kyoto has now been formally endorsed through a Gender and Water Partnership. Under this cooperation agreement, ADB and GWA have agreed on the following program of activities: (i) operations review; (ii) advisory services; (iii) pilots and/or demonstration activities; (iv) training; and (v) joint publication.

3. Poverty and Gender Correlated

A review of ADB's loan portfolio for 2001-2002 has revealed a strong mutually reinforcing correlation between the GAD theme and ADB's overarching objective of poverty reduction. Virtually all loans classified with the GAD theme carried either core poverty or poverty intervention classification. This demonstrates that loans designed to be gender-inclusive have a high potential to promote ADB's overall goal of poverty reduction.



4. Country Gender Assessments—Update

ADB has completed country gender assessments (CGA) for India and Sri Lanka, for which country strategies and programs (CSPs) were

completed in 2003. The CGAs are due to be published in late 2003 or early 2004. A CGA is also under preparation for the Philippines as input to the country strategy and program (CSP), to be undertaken in 2004. Other gender thematic work currently under completion as inputs for CSPs include a Gender and Millennium Development Goals study for Bangladesh and CGA for Lao People's Democratic Republic. A joint ADB/World Bank CGA for Mongolia is under preparation.

5. Technical Assistance on Women's Plan of Action for the Fiji Islands: Progress

The gender audits for the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture, completed under this technical assistance, will be launched on the occasion of the Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting in the Fiji Islands in April 2004. Under Part B of the technical assistance, the Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM) was funded to lobby for the adoption of the Family Law Bill (FLB). The Parliament finally adopted the FLB on 14 October. The FWRM has also undertaken work on a National Policy on Sexual Harassment and National Policy on Equal Employment Opportunities (EEO). Three separate brochures on EEO, Workers Guide, and Employers Guide have been prepared for publication. Following the Sexual Harassment training provided to 10 private sector companies earlier in 2003, nine out of the 10 companies have now adopted the draft policy and guidelines prepared during the training.

6. Regional Technical Assistance on Gender and Governance in South Asia: Progress Update

In Bangladesh, activities are being implemented in 16 upazila, one municipality, and 141 Union Parishads (UPs) in 4 districts. The following activities have been completed: (i) data collection for the baseline survey and profile of women elected representatives; (ii) development of a comprehensive training program; (iii) capacity building training program for elected women Union Parishad members, including training for male chairpersons of the UPs and municipality; and (iv) gender sensitization training for women UP members and male chairpersons.

In Nepal, the capacity building for the ex-elected and nominated women representatives and grassroots women leaders of the village development committee (VDC) level was implemented in 32 VDCs. Baseline survey report has been completed. Capacity building training was conducted for community-based organizations and gender sensitization training provided to women and ex-chairpersons, secretaries, and community leaders from the VDCs. Thirty-two women's forums have been formed at the VDC level with membership from women leaders from community-based organizations, Dalit groups, and ex-elected and nominated women representatives. The forums provide a platform for collective action and broader participation of grassroots women leaders for negotiating public resources from government and nongovernment agencies. A formal linkage has been developed between the forum and the VDC and district development council (DDC).

In Pakistan, the capacity building program for women councilors of the Union Council (UC), Tehsil and District level was implemented

in 75 UCs. Other activities completed are: (i) draft report on baseline survey and profile of women councilors; and (ii) capacity building training for women councilors and male Nazims, Naib Nazim, male councilors, US secretaries, and government officers.

7. Public Seeks ADB Publications on Combating Trafficking of Women and Children

ADB publications on Combating Trafficking of Women and Children in South Asia and Guide for Integrating Trafficking Concerns into ADB Operations are in significant demand both internally and externally. In July 2003, it was the 2nd most visited document in ADB's web site <http://www.adb.org>, coming second to Employment Opportunities. In August 2003, it was still among the most frequently viewed documents in ADB's web site.

B. GAD Activities in ADB

1. Executive Director of UNIFEM Visits ADB

On 1 August, Noelene Heyzer, Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) visited ADB to discuss ADB/UNIFEM collaboration to promote the empowerment

of women and gender equality in the region. In a presentation, "Gender Issues on the Global Agenda," Ms. Heyzer emphasized the critical role of women in peace, security, and nation building, especially in post conflict



reconstruction. She identified trafficking of women and children and the spread of HIV/AIDS as significant challenges for the Asia and Pacific region.

2. Seminar Held on the Struggle for Bonded Labor Children's Rights to Education

The Social Development, Gender, and Social Protection Committee sponsored a seminar on 4 September featuring Shantha Sinha, a recipient of the 2003 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership. Ms. Sinha spoke about her experience in enabling bonded labor children to go to school, and establishing the right of children to education.

3. Fourth Meeting of the External Forum on Gender and Development

ADB's External Forum on Gender and Development (EFG) returned to ADB headquarters on 22-24 September for their fourth meeting. The External Forum met with ADB staff in the Regional and Sustainable Development Department; Strategy and Policy



Department; Budget, Personnel and Management Systems Department; and the regional departments to discuss progress in mainstreaming gender in ADB's operations. On this occasion, the EFG spent a day with the eight gender specialists from resident missions, discussing their work and gender activities in their respective countries. The EFG includes two new members this year, Smita Notosusanto from Indonesia and Wu Ching from the People's Republic of China (PRC). They replaced Mu Sochua from Cambodia and Mingming Shen from the PRC.

4. Sharing an Insider's View of the Millennium Project

A seminar on *Achieving Gender Equality through the MDGs—Issues and Challenges* was held on 23 September. Key findings and recommendations of a paper for the Millennium Project Task Force on Education and Gender Equality was discussed by Caren Grown, an economist and member of ADB's External Forum on Gender and Development (EFG). The paper, which Ms. Grown has co-authored, presented a strong argument that gender equity is integral to the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Ms. Grown briefed the EFG and other seminar participants on the general work of the Millennium Project and the specific issues and recommendations being considered by Task Force 3, including proposals for improving the indicators of gender equality and women's empowerment, efforts to ensure that gender concerns are addressed by all the Millennium Project task forces, planned improvements in gender disaggregated data collection, and MDG costing exercises. The discussion that followed touched many of the current debates on country strategies to localize and realize the MDGs and to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, and ADB's role in supporting these endeavors. Ms. Grown's presentation is available at <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/documents/tf03genapr18.pdf>



5. Resident Mission Gender and Development Specialists Attend Annual Meeting and Workshop

National gender and development (GAD) specialists from resident missions (RMs) in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam and Uzbekistan participated in an annual workshop in ADB headquarters from 24 September to 3 October. They met members of ADB's External Forum on Gender and Development. The GAD specialists shared good practices and also met with the regional departments to plan their 2004 work program and other GAD activities in 2004. The RM GAD specialists presented case studies of good practices, integrating GAD in ADB loans as part of lateral learning. The case studies included the Northwest Crop Diversification Project for Bangladesh; Central Region Environment Improvement Project for Viet Nam; Gender Reform Program Technical Assistance for Pakistan; and Third Livestock Development Project for Nepal. These will soon be available on ADB's gender web site (<http://www.adb.org/gender>).

C. External Events

1. Conference: Think Tank on Gender Mainstreaming

The Think Tank on Gender Mainstreaming, a high-level forum for dialogue and collaboration on gender and development in the Australian aid and development community was addressed by Shireen Lateef, Principal Social Development Specialist of ADB's Regional and Sustainable Development Department (RSDD). Ms. Lateef was keynote speaker at the forum, held in Brisbane from 2–4 July. Interesting experiences, data, and good practices were presented, and potential strategies were discussed. A general consensus emerged that gender mainstreaming in projects requires specific and concrete actions, strategies, implementation arrangements, and budgets to ensure its transformation from rhetoric to reality.

2. ICT's and Gender: Optimizing Opportunities

ADB, represented by Susanne Wendt, Social Development Specialist (Gender and Development) of the Southeast Asia Department, attended the forum on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Gender: Optimizing Opportunities, 20–23 August in Kuala Lumpur. The objective of the conference was to increase awareness of the gender dimensions of ICT, and to provide input to the World Summit on Information Society, to be held in Geneva, Switzerland in December 2003. The conference focused on various aspects of ICT and gender, including confidence and security; education; entrepreneurship for small and medium enterprises; and rural and disadvantaged groups. The conference concluded that (i) ICT is a tool to promote women's empowerment, rights and dignity, and full participation in the information society; (ii) ICT offers immense possibilities for enhancing women's participation in socioeconomic and political development to reduce poverty and improve quality of life; and (iv) ICT has a potential to overcome women's isolation, give them a voice, and improve governance to achieve gender equality.

3. Workshop on Gender Mainstreaming in Agriculture: Cambodia

A workshop sponsored by ADB was held on 22 September in Cambodia to assist the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) and its recently established Gender Working Group to develop a ministry-wide gender strategy. Yuriko Uehara, Senior Social Development Specialist of ADB's Mekong Department, organized and attended the workshop with Gender and Development (GAD) Specialists Kheng Samvada of the Sri Lanka Resident Mission and Nguyen Nhat Tuyen of the Viet Nam Resident Mission.

4. Workshop on Social Protection Schemes for Women in the Informal Sector

A workshop hosted by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on Social Protection Schemes: Women in the Informal Sector, was held in Bangkok from 8-10 September. Sri Wening Handayani, Poverty Reduction Specialist of ADB's East and Central Asia Department attended the workshop. The workshop included an overview on social protection for women in the informal sector in the region; presentation by governments on challenges of the public/private and community participation; and directions in extending social security to women and men in the informal economy, with focus on micro insurance. Other topics also covered were social protection for the informal sector/economy; doable schemes in the community; pursuing the poverty reduction agenda: social protection schemes and targeting the ultra poor; modalities of public/private and community participation in setting up community-based schemes. The drafting of the plenary policy, strategy, activity guidelines, and recommendations for innovative social protection schemes in the stated sectors were also covered.

5. Second Regional Workshop on Gender and Poverty Reduction Strategies: Cambodia

The Second Regional Workshop on Gender and Poverty Reduction Strategies in Cambodia was held in Siem Reap from 17–18 September. The workshop was co-sponsored by ADB, World Bank (WB), United Nations Development Fund for Women, the Netherlands Government, United Kingdom's Department for International Development, and Oxfam. Participants from ADB included Shireen Lateef, Principal Social Development Specialist of the Regional and Sustainable Development Department, and Yuriko Uehara, Senior Social Development Specialist of the Mekong Department, and 3 resident mission gender specialists from Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Viet Nam. The workshop was aimed at reviewing and exchanging experiences with gender-sensitive preparation of poverty reduction strategies; discussing the significance of gender-sensitive indicators in implementing and monitoring these strategies and; improving the understanding of budgeting and advocacy for priority gender-related policies. A WB/ADB gender coordinators' retreat was also held to assess the progress in improving gender equality in the region, discuss how to better mainstream gender in poverty reduction activities, and build stronger partnership and collaboration between ADB and WB gender programs.

D. Useful Web Sites and Materials on Gender and Development

The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) Regional Program on Engendering Economic Governance Asia-Pacific and Arab States Web Site Update. The following new and revised materials have been added to the site: (i) UNIFEM's work with the World Bank and ADB on a combined gender assessment in Cambodia; (ii) New partnership for UNIFEM and Indonesia on Women's Human Rights from an Economic Perspective; (iii) Highlights from the Regional Economic Advisor's travel to the Arab States to learn from UNIFEM projects on gender-responsive budgeting initiatives in Cairo, Egypt and Rabat, Morocco; and (iv) Highly successful Cambodia Country Workshop on Engendering Statistical Systems, 21–23 May 2003 that focuses on engendering the Cambodian Millennium Development Goals.

Gender and Governance Resource Database (for abstracts and locator information, visit <http://www.cld.org/wip.html>) from the Center for Legislative Development. Some of the links includes the following papers: (i) Gender Equality and the Millennium Development Goals, Gender and Development Group, World Bank, April 4, 2003; (ii) Progress of World's Women 2002: Gender Equality and the Millennium Development Goals; (iii) UNIFEM Biennial Report, Volume 2, 2002; and (iv) Gender Equity and Local Governance: A Study of the San Salvador Gender Equity Policy by Michael Clulow, May 2003.

Violence Against Women: From Silence to Empowerment, Edited by Don Brandt, Foreword by Don Brandt, World Vision, Published in *Global Future, A World Vision Journal of Human Development*, Second Quarter, 2003. Uniting different perspectives from around the world on how gender-based violence manifests itself and affects human development, this book offers hope to reduce the violence and its impact through case studies that outline the scope of the problem and ways to combat it <http://www.worldvisionresources.com>

E. Upcoming Gender-Related Workshops/Activities

Gender, Development, and Public Policy in an Era of Globalization. Gender and Development Studies at AIT (Bangkok), in collaboration with other members, is organizing this conference to be held in 11–12 May 2004 in Bangkok, Thailand. For more information, visit <http://www.serid.ait.ac.th/gds/asialink/>

Universalizing Socioeconomic Security for the Poor, 14 January–26 March 2004. Applications are invited for this diploma, offered by the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague, The Netherlands, in cooperation with the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in Ahmedabad and the Centre for Development Studies (CDS) in Trivandrum. For more information, visit <http://www.iss.nl> or <http://www.iss.nl/sg4>

Gender Network Secretariat

- Shireen Lateef (slateef@adb.org)
- Zarah Zafra (zmzafra@adb.org)