

Issue 3, February 2004

February Focus:

## Water for the Poor - Setting the Rules and Finding the Money

In this issue:

- What attendees thought of ADB's Water Week
- Why the poor don't get what they want
- Focus on a six point change agenda
- Backing leadership - Phnom Penh recognition
- NGO - ADB Dialogue framework



### What attendees thought of ADB's Water Week

Delegates to Water Week rounded out their participation by giving a big vote of approval to the event. Over 350 delegates drawn from government, providers, NGOs, financiers and the media benefited from twelve technical presentations, four keynote speeches, discussion time and networking. Sixty-five percent rated it valuable and committed themselves to take some action. Others rated it as interesting. WaterAid's Director Ravi Narayanan's keynote speech rated highest when he discussed the way forward through an effective partnership between the major stakeholders.



Download copies of [Keynote Speeches](#).

### Why the poor don't get what they want

Faulty policies and vested market interests have conspired to deny the poor access to safe drinking water. Experts attending the Water Week discussed this and other contentious issues surrounding the poor's lack of access to safe water. Charles Andrews, ADB's Principal Water Supply and Sanitation Specialist, argued that much of Asia's water supply was unaccounted for, leading to low coverage of formal water services and a large informal market. With such large informal markets come vested interests to not improve water services. He



### Water Home

Home Page - ADB Water Site


### What's New


[Speeches](#) and [presentations](#) during ADB Water Week 2004

[Response of ADB to the Report of the World Panel on Financing Water Infrastructure](#) [PDF]

[Report of the Meeting on the Water and Poverty Initiative](#) [PDF]

### Water Voices - Video Clips

[Hidden Paradise](#)   
Transforming a slum into a hidden paradise in the Philippines

[Upsream Downstream](#)   
Balancing the demand for water in Thailand

### Success Stories

[Country water actions](#)  
Case studies and lessons learned

### Coming Events

[First General Meeting of the Network of Asian River Basin Organizations \(NARBO\)](#)

[ADB Media Workshops on Water](#)  
[Chennai](#) | [New Delhi](#)

### Previous Events

[ADB Water Week 2004](#)  
(26-30 January 2004)

*"I believe that poverty in a world as knowledgeable*

added that many water policies do not facilitate expansion of water services naming high connection charges, low tariffs, poor billing and inadequate collection services as examples.

View [Presentation](#).



## Focus on a six point change agenda

Water Week targeted six high priority areas for change:

1. Backing good leadership
2. Empowering civil society
3. Making better use of informal water providers
4. Getting credible regulators
5. Shifting more lending to the rural poor
6. Investing more in non-structural assistance

Each of these involves getting stakeholders to work together --- government, NGOs, civil society, providers and financiers, including development agencies such as ADB.

Watch out for updates at ADB's [Water Week 2004](#) site for reports on each agenda item.

## Backing leadership - Phnom Penh wins recognition

Ek Sonn Chan, Director General of Phnom Penh's Water Supply Authority, received the ADB Water Prize during Water Week. In his acceptance speech, he highlighted the importance of teamwork and leadership to get results. He summed up the role of ADB in advancing the water agenda by saying 'ADB is more than just a Bank'. This view was echoed by ADB Vice President van der Linden in his keynote on the commitment of ADB to continue to invest in acquiring and sharing knowledge and in backing good leadership in water reforms and projects.

Download [Vice President van der Linden's keynote speech](#).



*and as resourceful as ours is simply unacceptable. It is not an immutable condition; public policy and action can rid us of this scourge. This is what development is all about"*

**Tadao Chino**  
President  
Asian Development Bank

**Water for All News** is produced monthly by the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Water Awareness Program to provide current information to developing member governments, professionals, researchers, private sector, civil society, academe, and their counterparts in the donor community who are interested in water sector issues that affect the pace of development.

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## NGO- ADB Dialogue

At Kyoto in March 2003, ADB and NGOs committed to maintaining a dialogue. During Water Week, NGOs exchanged views with ADB and discussed how NGOs could contribute to Bank activities at three levels: policy, strategy, and project.

At each of these levels, NGO-ADB dialogue will benefit from protocols on (i) representation (ii) processes for setting agendas and receiving feedback (iii) timetable (iv) disseminating agreements and (v) resolving differences of opinion. A group is being formed to develop such protocols. Their work will feed into ADB's comprehensive review of its water policy for 2005.

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