

# WATER for ALL news

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Water Sector News from the  
Asian Development Bank

Issue 4, March 2004

March Focus:

## Lessons from ADB Water Week, Part 1

Special feature: Implementing ADB's Water Policy

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### Reviewing ADB's water policy implementation

ADB's Water Sector Committee completed an [interim review](#) of the implementation of ADB's Water Policy [Water for All](#). The review assessed how the policy has been integrated in ADB's water operations. The results showed encouraging progress in improving water services, conservation, participation, and water governance. Modest progress was shown in introducing integrated water resource management, and in improving regional cooperation. Limited progress was made in promoting a national focus on water sector reforms.

Exemplary or good practice in implementing the water policy was shown in 54% of water loans but only in 20% of technical assistance projects.

The review highlighted the need for a revision in the policy provision for large water resources projects that involve dams, to reflect better how ADB can help to ensure the participation of stakeholders in project preparation. The need for such a revision is now under consideration.

A comprehensive review of ADB's Water Policy implementation is scheduled for 2005. [Comments](#) on the interim review are welcome and will be used in the preparation of the comprehensive review.

#### Water Home

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#### Water Week 2004

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#### What's New

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NARBO

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#### Water Voices - Video Clips

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#### Success Stories

#### Country water actions

Case studies and lessons learned

#### Previous Events

#### [ADB Water Week 2004](#)

(26-30 January 2004)

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

ADB Media Workshops on Water

[Chennai](#) | [New Delhi](#)

**"Action starts with Governments... But Governments cannot do it alone. Civil society groups have a**

## Cooperation Fund for the Water Sector: making an impact on water operations

ADB's **Cooperation Fund for the Water Sector** has contributed significantly to ADB's water policy implementation, according to a survey among ADB's Water Sector Committee on the **impact of the Fund**. The survey conducted as part of the interim review of water policy implementation.



Established in 2001 with an initial contribution from the Government of the Netherlands, the Fund has provided a **strategic framework** and financial support for improving water awareness, knowledge management, and capacity building as part of ADB's water operations. It has also enabled ADB to finance pilot and demonstration activities, and to improve networking and regional initiatives in support of the water policy.

*critical role, as partners, advocates and watchdogs. So do commercial enterprises. Without the private sector, sustainable development will remain only a distant dream. We are not asking corporations to do something different from their normal business; we are asking them to do their normal business differently."*

**Kofi Annan**  
United Nations  
Secretary-General

## Lessons from ADB Water Week 2004, Part 1



### Digest of keynotes

ADB Water Week featured four eminent keynote speakers. **Michel Camdessus**, chair of the World Panel on Financing Water Infrastructure, called for more commitment to increase water financing, and warned that if stakeholders do not work together, the 2015 MDG targets will not be met. **Erna Witoelar**, UN Special Ambassador on the MDGs, stressed that 'business as usual' will not work if water is to be available to the one in three persons in Asia who lacks adequate water quality and access. **Geert van der Linden**, ADB Vice President, underlined the need for better leadership - political, managerial, civil - as a central driver of change. **Ravi Narayanan**, Director of WaterAid, a UK-based international NGO, underscored the absence of magic solutions to water problems, and advocated working for incremental changes, especially through partnerships, participation, governance and finance."

**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.

For comments or more information contact: [water@adb.org](mailto:water@adb.org)

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## Participants reflect on ADB

## Water Week

With participation of more than 350 stakeholders from government agencies, financing institutions, water service providers, media, and civil society organizations, [ADB Water Week](#) featured wide ranging discussions on the theme of Water for the Poor - Setting the Rules and Finding the Money. Participants feedback underlined the need to:



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- Simplify and streamline project preparation to match policies with implementation.
- Pursue decentralization and recognize that this means assisting local governments and NGOs gain the capacity to address water services and irrigation issues.
- Enlist support from the media and NGOs in reforming water services.

Read more of the [Participants' Reflections](#).



### Beyond Water Week: participants' commitment to action

Finding the money to help the poor was uppermost in participants' minds during ADB Water Week. When asked to prioritize [follow-up actions](#) that can move the water agenda forward to benefit the poor, many participants focused on actions to improve water financing, in particular to:

- Provide accessible finance for the poor
- Provide finance to the private sector
- Decentralize financing
- Introduce more flexible financing.

Information, integrated water resources management, and partnerships were also identified as key action areas. ADB will consider these suggestions as part of its water operations.

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