

ADB Helps Rebuild Sri Lanka's North and East

The Asian Development Bank approved an emergency loan of \$150 million to Sri Lanka in April 2010 for the Conflict Affected Region Emergency (CARE) Project. The project will provide extensive support for the reconstruction of conflict affected regions, primarily the Northern Province and some areas in the Eastern and North Central Province. The loan is part of a wider assistance extended by ADB to the former conflict affected regions.

ADB's Sri Lanka Resident Mission led three fact-finding missions. Extensive discussions were held at various levels to determine the nature and extent of assistance needed.

The project will rehabilitate more than 250 km of roads; support restoration of electricity and water supply; improve basic social services such as irrigation, administrative offices, and vocational training centers; and rehabilitate court-houses and related facilities.

ADB is already contributing to efforts to resettle internally displaced people (IDP) in the northern and eastern parts of the country through the ongoing North East Community Restoration and Development Project (NECORD) II. Activities such as repairing damaged schools, hospitals, and roads and providing tractors to farmers' cooperatives have already taken place. More than 30,000 IDP families received livelihood grants in Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Vavuniya, and Mannar. Each family received Rs25,000 administered through the NECORD Project Management Unit. The Australian Agency for International Development provided a grant of \$7.3 million for this purpose.

ADB also provided assistance of \$12.8 million (from loan savings and cancellations within the portfolio) for the



INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE The government estimates that around \$2.7 billion is needed for the rehabilitation of the conflict affected regions in the Northern Province

NECORD II project which has a well-established implementation structure. Over the years, NECORD projects have received cofinancing from Australia, European Union, Finland, Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden.

District hospitals in Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi built earlier under the NECORD project and now needing refurbishment will be supported by this supplementary loan. More than \$1 million will also be provided for the rehabilitation of wards in the Trincomalee General Hospital. This is being done in collaboration with AmeriCares, an international NGO.

Other support is being provided under the Conflict Affected Areas Rebuilding Project (CARRP) which is expediting the ongoing road works and installing medium and rural electrification schemes.

Loan savings of about \$5 million

from the education sector has been re-allocated for the development of more than 500 schools, and \$410,000 from the fisheries sector has been channeled for inland fisheries development. ■

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In this publication, \$ refers to US dollar

Creating Livelihood from a Reservoir

ADB's Improvement Project for Inland Fisheries

In the mornings, the fishermen's landing site at the Senanayake Samudra reservoir becomes a hive of activity. More than 400 fishermen bring in their catch daily at around 6:30 a.m. As they come ashore in their small boats, the fish buyers assemble—their bicycles and motorcycles ready, with aluminum boxes strapped to the back. They buy the freshwater fish directly from the fishermen. Thereafter, the fish is sold at the local markets. Some vendors also produce salted dry fish while some opt for smoked fish production.

The Senanayaka Samudra reservoir is the largest inland body of water in Sri Lanka. As part of the Gal Oya Development Scheme, the reservoir was created in 1951 by damming the Gal Oya river at Inginiyagala. The reservoir and its surroundings have been declared a sanctuary. The tank is an important inland fishery source and has a rich diversity of freshwater fish, including native and exotic species. The tank is also home to a variety of Indian carp such as Catla, Tilapia, and Rohu hybrid freshwater fish.

While B L Sunil, a 44-year old fish vendor, packs his bicycle with a big Catla (freshwater fish), he explains what he will do with a 15-kilogram fish which he bought for Rs150 per kilogram. "I will first clean it, discard its head, and cut it into 1 and 1/2 inch slices. Once washed and dried, I will put it on a rack and smoke it

for 2 days. My wife helps me," he says.

From his home town in Ampara, mostly composed of Sinhalese, Sunil travels 35 kilometers north to Kalmunai to sell his smoked fish at Rs700 per kilo among the Muslim people there.

The fishermen (the direct sellers) and the buyers who are the vendors both belong to the fisheries cooperatives which look into the interest of their members. The catch is weighed and sales are recorded. In addition to the membership fee, the members also give a percentage of their sales, which is deposited in the cooperative's account, and members can avail of loans from this fund. The fisheries cooperatives are an integral part of their lives.

B.L. Sunil is one of those who benefitted from the fish production enhancement program funded by ADB. The Aquatic Resources and Quality Improvement Project is being implemented through the National Aquaculture Development Authority (NAQDA) of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. One of the main components of this project is the development of inland fisheries to increase production of freshwater fish. Fisheries cooperatives also receive support from the project which focuses on improving resource management in medium and perennial tanks. The project encourages communities to participate in community-based fisheries



SMOKED FISH VENDOR B L Sunil, a member of the Senanayake Samudra Inland Fisheries Cooperative Society, displays the freshwater 'Catla' fish he bought at Inginiyagala Senanayake Samudra Landing Site

management and aquaculture enterprises.

B L Sunil, who has four children ranging from 15 to 21 year-old, said he is already content with his livelihood. "I never really bothered to go to school; I grew up with the tank. I am a member of the Fisheries Cooperative Society and in the last few years I have seen a lot of progress. We purchased baby fish and released it to the tank, that's why there is such a harvest." ■



SENANAYAKA SAMUDRA The reservoir is an important inland fishery source and has a rich diversity of freshwater fish, including native and exotic species

Improving the Power Sector

ADB and the Government of Japan will provide assistance to Sri Lanka to improve the nation's power transmission system and expand rural electrification. This will contribute to the Government of Sri Lanka's goal of widening public access to electricity services from 80% to 98% by 2016.

The technical assistance project on sustainable power sector support is funded by the Government of Japan through the Japan Special Fund that is administered by ADB. The Japan Special Fund is extending a grant of \$800,000 for the project, while the Government of Sri Lanka will provide \$200,000 for technical assistance implementation.

SLRM Events

Year-End Media Interaction

ADB Sri Lanka Resident Mission (SLRM) held its annual year-end media interaction on 7 December 2009. Richard Vokes, SLRM Country Director, gave welcome remarks and presented an overview of ADB's operations in Sri Lanka for 2009. Narhari Rao, SLRM Lead Economist, spoke on the state of the economy and ADB's prospective program for Sri Lanka for the next 3 years. More than 35 media representatives participated.



ECONOMY IN FOCUS Country Director Richard Vokes (left) and Lead Economist Narhari Rao answer questions from the media

Annual Cocktails for Key Stakeholders

SLRM held its year-end cocktail for its key stakeholders on 14 December 2009. Government officials, key ADB project staff, and representatives from private sector and development partners were present.



ANNUAL COCKTAILS Sarath Amunugama, Deputy Minister of Finance and Minister of Trade and Investment, speaks of ADB's long standing relationship with Sri Lanka



MEDIA INTEREST ADB's support to Sri Lanka will surpass \$300 million in 2010

Workshop on ADB Environmental And Social Safeguard Policies

Richard Vokes, SLRM Country Director, gave opening remarks and GJC Gunathilake, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Highways and Road Development, gave a keynote address at the workshop held on 23-24 March. The workshop was organized under ADB's technical assistance project on Implementation of Environmental Management Plan of Southern Transport Development. Jayantha Perera Principal Safeguard Specialist, Office of the Director General, ADB South Asia Department; SLRM staff in the project team; project implementation officers Amarasena Gammathige, Manjula Amerasinghe, and Aruna Nanayakkara; and SLRM Gender Specialist Nelun Gunasekera gave presentations. More than 75 participants, including government officials and staff from executing agencies joined the workshop.



SAFEGUARD POLICIES G J C Gunathilake, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Highways and Road Development, gives a keynote address at the workshop

Training Workshop on Gender Awareness

Nelun Gunasekera, SLRM Gender Specialist, conducted a gender awareness training workshop for the Environmental and Social Division of Road Development Authority, Ministry of Highways and Road Development on 24-25 February. A total of 15 participants attended.



GENDER AWARENESS SLRM Gender Specialist Nelun Gunasekera talks on gender awareness to the participants from Environmental and Social Division, Road Development Authority, Ministry of Highways and Road Development

Workshop on How to Prepare Bids For ADB-Funded Projects

Sarath Muthugala, SLRM Procurement Officer, conducted a training workshop for construction industry officers of executing agencies in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka on 10 February. The program, with 23 participants, was organized by the Provincial Director's Office, Road Development Department of the Eastern Province.



PREPARING BIDS Construction industry personnel learn ADB processes in preparing bids

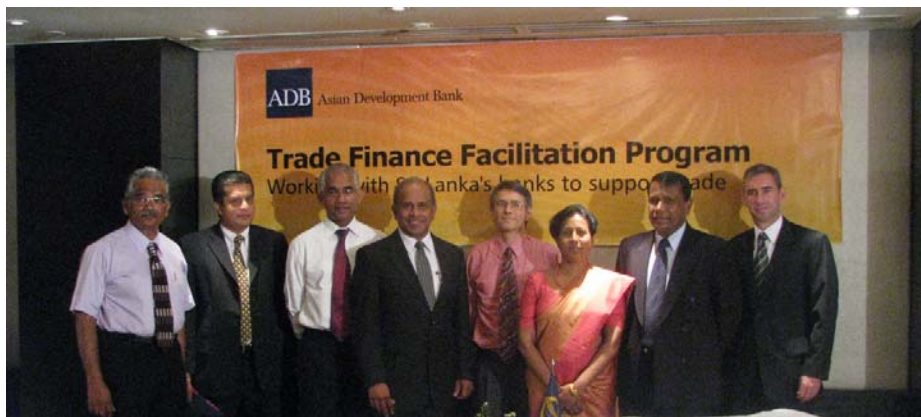
News Brief

ADB Signs Trade Finance Pacts with Banks in Sri Lanka

ADB signed new trade financing agreements with the Bank of Ceylon, DFCC Vardhana Bank Limited, and NDB Bank Plc on 21 December 2009.

The agreements are part of ADB's Trade Finance and Facilitation Program which will enable the banks to provide essential financing to Sri Lanka's exporters and importers. The Bank of Ceylon Plc signed its first agreement under the program while DFCC Vardhana Bank Limited and NDB Bank Plc expanded their existing partnership with ADB.

Steven Beck, Head, Trade Finance, ADB Private Sector Operations Department, joined the signing ceremony. ■



AFTER THE SIGNING CEREMONY (from left) Kumar Weerasuriya, Vice-President for Operations, NDB Bank Plc; Lakshman De Silva, Director and COO, DFCC Vardhana Bank; Eran Wickremaratna, CEO, NDB Bank; LG Perera, Managing Director, DFCC Vardhana Bank; Richard Vokes, Country Director, ADB-SLRM; W A Nalani, Senior Deputy General Manager, Corporate and Offshore Banking, BOC; H M A B Weerasekera, Deputy General Manager, International and Treasury, BOC; and Steven Beck, Head, Trade Finance, ADB Private Sector Operations Department

New Director General Appointed for ADB South Asia Department

Sultan Hafeez Rahman of Bangladesh has been appointed Director General for ADB South Asia Department, responsible for ADB operations in Bangladesh,



Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. Mr. Rahman, who took up the appointment on 11 January 2010, was formerly Director General of ADB Pacific Department where he was responsible for ADB's work in its 14 Pacific member countries. He has enjoyed a distinguished career at ADB since joining in 1992. He led the resumption of ADB op-

erations in Viet Nam in 1994, and Afghanistan in 2002-2003 and helped initiate assistance to Kazakhstan in 1995 after the collapse of the Soviet Union. He was also Country Director in Nepal at the peak of the civil conflict from 2003 to 2006, and was deeply involved in ADB's stabilization and recovery assistance work to the countries hardest hit by the Asian financial crisis of 1997-1999.

Mr. Rahman received a performance award from ADB for his work in helping author ADB's Poverty Reduction Strategy. More recently, he was appointed to head ADB's task force during the food crisis of 2008, and is currently involved in another task force overseeing ADB's response to the global economic crisis. He has also served as Advisor to ADB's Vice-President (East) in the Office of the President.

SLRM Country Director Receives Best Director Award

Richard Vokes, Country Director, ADB Sri Lanka Resident Mission, received the Best Director award for the resident mission category in a recent recognition program launched by ADB Staff Council.



The ADB Staff Council conducted an online survey among ADB staff to determine how they describe their directors and what characteristics of a director are considered by the staff as appropriate and deserve recognition.

NEWS FROM Sri Lanka

The quarterly newsletter of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Sri Lanka Resident Mission (SLRM) aims to enhance communications between ADB and its client groups. News from Sri Lanka disseminates information on ADB activities and provides a forum on development issues in Sri Lanka.

Articles in the newsletter, however, do not necessarily reflect the official ADB view. We welcome readers' comments and suggestions.

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