

ADB Cooperation with Civil Society

Annual Report 2005

April 2006

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	-	Asian Development Bank
BCCI	-	Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative
CSO	-	civil society organization
CSP	-	country strategy and program
DMC	-	developing member country
GMS	-	Greater Mekong Subregion
IUCN	-	International Conservation Union
JFPR	-	Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction
Lao PDR	-	Lao People's Democratic Republic
NGO	-	NGO and Civil Society Center
PCP	-	Public Communications Policy
RCSP	-	regional country strategy and program
TA	-	technical assistance
WWF	-	World Wildlife Fund

NOTE

In this report "\$" refers to the US dollar.

This report provides the highlights of the Asian Development Bank's (ADB's) extensive cooperation with civil society organizations during 2005. It was prepared by ADB's NGO and Civil Society Center, which is part of the Gender, Social Development and Civil Society Division of the Regional and Sustainable Development Department.

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I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Introduction

In 2005, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) involved hundreds of civil society organizations (CSOs) across Asia and the Pacific in the development and implementation of projects, formulation of country and subregional strategies, and review of the implementation of its Water Policy. The year also witnessed wide-ranging consultation sessions with advocacy nongovernment organizations (NGOs) and workers representatives, changes to ADB guidelines to make it easier to involve grassroots CSOs in projects, and the awarding of small grants to dozens of nonprofit organizations. The new Public Communications Policy entered into effect in September 2005, greatly expanding the range of information made publicly available to CSOs and others interested in ADB operations. In short, the year witnessed a diverse and very extensive engagement of CSOs on many levels.

The inaugural 3-year “road map” for cooperation among ADB, governments and CSOs¹ was completed, providing an opportunity for reflection and preparation of a new work plan set within the context of the new medium-term strategies of ADB and the Regional and Sustainable Development Department (RSDD).

In July 2005, RSDD was reorganized with a fresh mandate to support and enhance quality and efficiency across operations by (i) driving the renewal of ADB’s key business; (ii) supporting quality enhancement and innovation of key sector operations; (iii) promoting sustainability and inclusiveness of ADB investment; and (iv) improving ADB’s knowledge management.

RSDD’s reorganization included the upgrading of civil society relations to the division level through the creation of the Gender, Social Development and Civil Society Division. In addition, the NGO Center, now situated in this division, was rechristened the “NGO and Civil Society Center” (NGOC) to better reflect its role of serving as the primary institutional contact for a wide array of civil society groups. The change also promotes synergy in several areas in which CSOs are particularly active and bring special insight and capabilities. These include striving for more equitable development, promoting core labor standards, incorporating greater public participation, strengthening social protection, and preventing the spread of communicable diseases, such as avian influenza and HIV/AIDS.

A regional technical assistance (TA) project in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) provided an opportunity for ADB and representatives of governments and CSOs to explore how to best work together in the elaboration of the country strategy and program (CSP) and the regional economic cooperation and strategy program (RCSP). The TA highlighted mechanisms to generate participatory program and policy responses to poverty challenges in the Mekong countries. It also provided momentum for strengthening civil society participation in consultations on CSP and RCSP development and implementation.

¹ ADB. 2003. *ADB-Government-NGO Cooperation: A Framework for Action, 2003–2005*.

Throughout 2005, the NGOC continued to integrate CSO knowledge and experience into ADB operations, engage civil society groups in a regular dialogue, identify and develop strategic alliances, and improve ADB's institutional capacity to interact proactively with civil society.

Box 1. What is a Civil Society Organization?

In this report, the term *civil society organization* (CSO) refers to a range of non-state players, including nongovernment organizations (NGOs), humanitarian and relief agencies, social movements and networks, labor unions, academic organizations, and research institutions.

ADB collaborates most with developmental NGOs, including peoples' organizations, community-based organizations, voluntary organizations or private voluntary development organizations, intermediary organizations, and public interest groups, such as professional associations and trade unions.

ADB-Government-NGO Cooperation: A Framework for Action, 2003–2005 uses the term "NGO" very broadly, and largely synonymously with "CSO". In line with international practice, ADB increasingly uses the term CSO when referring to a diversity of nonprofit, nongovernment groups.

Brief History of ADB's Cooperation with Civil Society

Recognizing the emergence of NGOs as significant actors in the development process, and the importance of building closer relations with them in its operations, ADB approved a policy paper in 1987 on cooperation with NGOs. The policy stated that cooperation with NGOs was as an effective means of supplementing ADB-assisted activities. It further stated that ADB could enhance the effectiveness of its operations by drawing upon the special capabilities and expertise of NGOs.

Following a decade during which time civil society blossomed in the Asia-Pacific region, and became even more influential agents for development, ADB, in 1998, approved an updated policy on cooperation with NGOs². The policy, which remains in effect today, recognized the diversity of organizations in the NGO sector and identified "developmental NGOs" as ADB's primary civil society partners.

Other major steps in the deepening of ADB-CSO links have included creation within ADB of the NGOC and NGO/Civil Society Network in 2001, adoption and implementation of the *ADB-Government-NGO Cooperation: A Framework for Action, 2003-2005* (the Cooperation Framework), and elevating civil society relations to the division level in mid-2005.

This report provides an overview of ADB cooperation with CSOs during 2005, highlighting numerous examples from projects, programs, and policies. Taken together,

² ADB. 1998. *Cooperation between Asian Development Bank and Nongovernment Organizations*. Manila.

it shows that collaboration with civil society has become firmly rooted in ADB's operations, and occurs through a diverse range of interactions.

The Cooperation Framework

During 2002 and 2003, hundreds of representatives of ADB, developing member country (DMC) governments, CSOs, and businesses contributed to the preparation of the Cooperation Framework. The document was developed through 17 country and regional workshops held in numerous ADB member countries³.

Drawing on a synthesis of the inputs gathered during the consultations, a subgroup of participants from those consultations convened at ADB headquarters in November 2002 to produce the initial draft of the Framework during an intensive 1-week "writeshop".⁴ The NGOC edited and streamlined the document, and then circulated it within ADB and externally for comment. Altogether, more than 600 persons contributed to the elaboration of the Cooperation Framework by offering their views on key issues, goals, and actions. ADB formally approved the document in May 2003.

The Cooperation Framework provided recommendations in five areas on how ADB, governments, and NGOs can move forward in the pursuit of closer cooperation to reduce poverty in the Asia and Pacific region. It also put into an operational context the directives contained in ADB's Long-Term Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Strategy, especially in terms of promoting improved conditions for wider and more effective participation in decision making, including decision making by civil society.

The Cooperation Framework marked an important step in the maturing relationship between ADB and civil society, as well as the tripartite relationship which includes governments. NGOC oversaw implementation of the Cooperation Framework, which concluded at the end of 2005.

Following are the five broad areas in which the Cooperation Framework made recommendations: (i) Strengthening Stakeholder Participation in ADB-Supported Activities, (ii) Enhancing Transparency and Interaction through Access to Information; (iii) Developing ADB's Capacity for NGO Cooperation, (iv) Building NGO Capacity and Providing Institutional Support, and (v) Strengthening Government-NGO Cooperation and Collaboration.

From poverty assessments to the elaboration of CSPs, to the design and implementation of ADB-assisted activities, ADB seeks to nurture cooperation between governments and NGOs in its DMCs. Where welcomed by the other stakeholder groups, ADB staff also participate in occasional meetings with government and NGO or community representatives to help resolve differences that may have arisen so as to improve mutual understanding and to jointly work out practical solutions.

³ See list of workshops at http://www.adb.org/NGOs/Framework/consultation_schedule.pdf.

⁴ A "writeshop" is a participatory workshop process used for developing a document or publication. It maximizes the perspectives of the participants so that a first draft of the document is ready by the end of the workshop. Participants were given a synthesis of the recommendations from previous workshops as a starting point, and then worked together in writing committees and thematic groups to draft each section of the Cooperation Framework.

Box 2. The Contribution of Civil Society Organizations

CSOs provide value-added in the promotion of sustainable development by introducing:

- *Innovation*. Identifying new approaches and models for specific development activities, drawing upon their close knowledge of local communities.
- *Accountability*. Helping to ensure that project components are implemented as envisaged and planned.
- *Responsiveness*. Encouraging the implementation of projects in ways that respond to local needs.
- *Participation*. Serving as bridges between project authorities and affected communities, and providing structures for citizen participation.
- *Sustainability*. Nurturing continuity in project work, especially when implementing agencies lack capacity or when staffing changes.

II. CSO INVOLVEMENT IN ADB LENDING OPERATIONS

ADB approved 65 public sector loans in 2005. Of these, 48 (74%) featured some elements of CSO participation. This is the highest percentage ever recorded. The comparable figures for 2003 and 2004 were 64% and 65%, respectively.

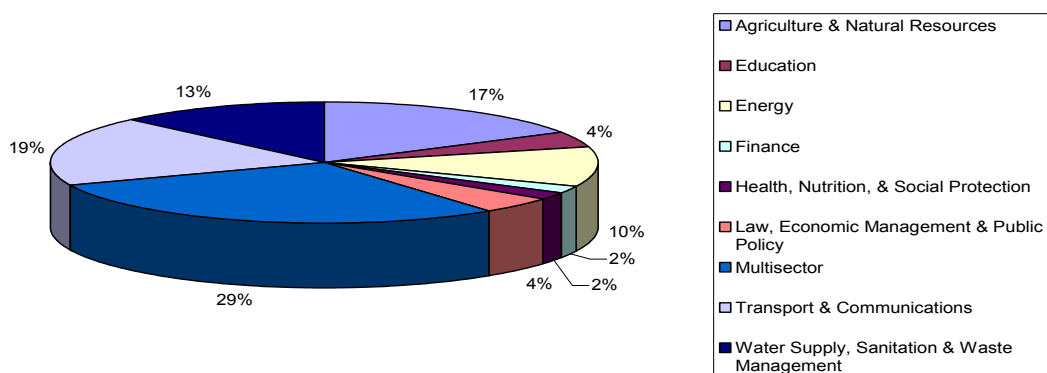
Table 1. ADB Loan Projects with CSO Involvement

Year	Loans with CSO Involvement	Total Loans Approved	Percentage
2003	47	74	64
2004	48	74	65
2005	48	65	74

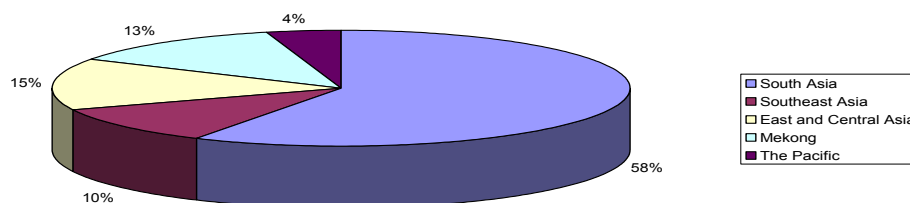
On a country basis, Pakistan boasted the largest number of loan projects with CSO involvement (10). Next was Bangladesh, where 6 newly approved projects featured some aspect of CSO cooperation.

The sector with the most number of projects with CSO involvement—about one-third of all such projects—was Law, Economic Management, and Public Policy, with 14. This compares to 9 loans in the Transport & Communications sector, and 8 in the Agriculture and Natural Resources sector.

**ADB Loans with CSO Involvement by Sector
Projects Approved in 2005**



ADB Loans with CSO Involvement by Region Projects Approved in 2005



Box 3. Levels of CSO Cooperation in ADB Operations

- (i) **General consultation activities** – CSOs are consulted on ADB policy and/or projects.
- (ii) **Information provider** – Specific information is provided by CSOs and reflected in the design or implementation of ADB-assisted activities.
- (iii) **Policy and advocacy work** – There is substantive involvement by CSOs in the elaboration of ADB policies.
- (iv) **Co-financer** – CSO contributes its own staff/funding resources to an ADB-assisted activity.
- (v) **Beneficiary** – CSO is the recipient of ADB support, or a participant in ADB-funded training or other capacity-building activity.
- (vi) **Expert/Consultant/Trainer** – CSO is contracted to undertake a specific component of an ADB-assisted activity.
- (vii) **Implementing agency** – CSO is contracted to implement an ADB-assisted activity.
- (viii) **Monitoring and evaluation** – CSO monitors or evaluates an ADB-assisted activity, including as a contractor.

Following are selected examples of CSO involvement in ADB loans that were either approved or were being implemented during 2005.

Bangladesh

Skills Training for Rural Women

National NGOs were engaged to encourage rural women to form labor contracting societies (LCS) and trained these women to participate in road maintenance activities and develop tree plantations in the *Third Rural Infrastructure Development Project*. The NGOs also provided training to LCS members and women vendors on income-generating activities.

Strengthening Local Skills in the Agriculture Sector

More than 500 NGOs have been involved in social mobilization of beneficiaries, and conducting training courses on organizational development, sustainable agriculture and ecology in the *Forestry Sector Project*. Fifteen NGOs were recruited to carry out microfinance activities in 17 districts in northern Bangladesh under the *Second Participatory Livestock Development Project*. Under this project, NGOs provided technical training to beneficiaries on poultry and livestock enterprises and operated micro-credit for onlending to poor households, many of which are headed by women. Other activities included social mobilization, group formation, social awareness training, and skills training.

Bangladeshi NGOs were engaged to form community development committees, train their members, and provide support to identify relevant subprojects under the *Chittagong Hill Tract Rural Development Project*.

Building up Local Capacity to Manage Water

National NGOs provided facilitators' services in organizing water management associations, and conducted participatory rapid appraisals and beneficiary mobilization for establishment of the associations and labor contracting societies for the *Second Small-Scale Water Sector Development*.

People's Republic of China

Testing NGO-Assisted Poverty Alleviation Efforts at the Village Level

The *NGO-Government Partnerships in Village-Level Poverty Alleviation Project* will seek to mainstream the role of NGOs in state-funded poverty programs. The TA has selected the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation (CFPA) to oversee implementation of the pilot test component of the project in Jiangxi Province. CFPA will select NGOs to facilitate village-level poverty alleviation projects based on participatory village planning. If the project proves successful, it could be extended to other parts of the country.

Indonesia

Improving Neighborhoods

Community-based NGOs known as Badan Keswadayaan Masyarakat (BKM) were engaged to implement simple civil works such as improvement of local drains and footpaths in Indonesia's *Neighborhood Upgrading and Shelter Sector Project*. Seventy-one of these BKMs have submitted proposals as part of the project's neighborhood upgrading plan process.

Helping Communities to Manage their Development

ADB approved the *Community Empowerment for Rural Development Project* in 2000. The project aims to empower rural communities by strengthening their capacity to plan and manage their own development activities, supporting investments, fostering rural-urban linkages, and establishing rural infrastructure to promote agricultural productivity and off-farm business enterprises .

Three NGOs monitoring the project in some villages in South Kalimantan during 2002 and 2003 expressed concern to the Government of Indonesia and to ADB that infrastructure had been constructed without following the sequencing of components and sufficient community participation; a capacity building component had not been started; some infrastructure was faulty; and certain improvements were unsatisfactory.

In early 2005, NGOs and villages forwarded a complaint to ADB's Office of the Special Project Facilitator (OSPF). OSPF declared the complaint "eligible", assessed it, identified problems, proposed solutions, and organized joint fact-finding activities and multistakeholder workshops to reach a common understanding on the issues and how to address them. NGOs played an important role as intermediaries between OSPF and the villagers, bridging cultural and language barriers. Agreements were signed by concerned parties, including villagers, local governments, and ADB in five villages in late September. This was the first successful resolution of a complaint brought before the OSPF.

Reducing Flood Risks

The *South Java Flood Control Sector Project* aims to improve the quality of life of rural and urban populations in the project area by (i) reducing flood-induced disruption of human activities and disease, (ii) preventing regular flooding of houses and crops, and (iii) minimizing disruption of services and commercial activities.

Lembaga Penelitian Pendidikan dan Penerangan Ekonomi dan Sosial (LP3ES), a national NGO, has been engaged to monitor the progress and performance achieved by land acquisition and resettlement units in the implementation of resettlement plans in their respective *kabupaten* (districts). Responsibilities include design and development of appropriate monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems, and conducting detailed surveys and interviews with stakeholders to ensure implementation is in line with the resettlement plans.

Kyrgyz Republic

Addressing Education and Health Care Needs of Children

Approved in 2003, the project is aimed at improving the health, nutrition, and psychosocial development of young children up to the age of 8 years. The project is

directly relevant to human development needs of the Kyrgyz Republic as set forth in the country's comprehensive development framework, and in its Education Strategy for 2010. It is also contributing to attainment of the Millennium Development Goals on reducing the under-5 mortality rate, and sustaining universal primary education. The project primarily targets the Kyrgyz Republic's 12 poorest *raions* (districts), but support for an extended program of immunization is covering the needs of all eligible children in the country.

The Save the Children and Public Foundation "Step by Step" Program (Shag za Shagom) were among the NGO stakeholders consulted in the development of preschool education and childcare standards. In addition, an NGOs has been contracted to provide training for community family and child coordinators, nurses, heads of local administrations, and social workers on developing community-based kindergartens, health, and education.

Nepal

Building up Microfinance Providers

Microfinance NGOs lend project funds to beneficiaries, mostly poor women and marginal farmers, to improve their socioeconomic status and increase employment opportunities. These funds have been provided by the principal implementing agency of Nepal's *Rural Microfinance Project*, the Rural Microfinance Development Center. More than 100 microfinance NGOs have received training and operational support on institutional and financial capabilities of microfinance institutions.

Addressing Social Aspects of Road Construction

In the *Rural Infrastructure Development Project*, district-level NGOs were involved in social mobilization activities and supported institutional development of community-based organizations such as Road User Committees and labor groups. These NGOs also conducted beneficiary awareness campaigns for laborers at construction sites informing them about their opportunities, rights, and duties.

Promoting Good Governance

Pro Public, an NGO, provided an independent review and reporting mechanism on the *Governance Reform Program*, and disseminated information to stakeholders regarding program goals, plans and implementation. The overall goal of the program, approved in November 2001, is to establish a civil service that is more results- and people-oriented and gender-responsive.

Pakistan

Improving Women's Access to Health

Eleven community-based NGOs have been engaged in the *Women's Health Project*, approved in 1999, to study the socio-cultural environment of towns and design participatory techniques to improve communication between community and health facilities. These NGOs are developing mechanisms for organizing and mobilizing

communities for participation in the improved delivery of health services and project ownership.

Improving the Justice System

In December 2001, ADB approved the *Access to Justice Program* to assist the Government in improving citizen's access to justice, to secure and sustain entitlements, reduce the vulnerability of those in poverty, strengthen the legitimacy of state institutions, and create conditions conducive to pro-poor growth, especially by fostering investor confidence.

Under the project, NGOs engaged in legal empowerment activities are able to access funding from the Legal Empowerment Fund (LEF). The LEF funds legal aid and public awareness campaigns on matters of rule of law and civil society initiatives concerned with the protection of rights-based civil liberties. Initiatives of six national NGOs were approved in 2005 (see table below).

Table 2. NGO Initiatives Funded by Access to Justice Program

NGO	Nature of the NGO Initiative Funded by Access to Justice Program
Citizens Commission for Human Rights (CCHR)	CCHR is organizing mobile legal teams, lawyers groups for legal aid, and legal information centers at the community level.
Goth Sudhar Sangat Aghamani-GSSA (Dadu) Sindh	This NGO is gathering data on honor killing incidents and violence against women. It is also promoting legal awareness through seminars, training sessions, and promotional materials.
Koshish (Sialkot) Punjab	Koshish (Sialkot) promotes legal empowerment through the dissemination of popularized versions of legal rights booklets, sensitization workshops, interactive theaters, and compilation of criminal cases of illegal detention of women.
DEVCON (Shahdadpur) Sindh	DEVCON is raising public awareness about fundamental laws at the grassroots level and training local government officials on Family Laws, Tenancy Act, Registration Act, and other property-related rights of citizens.
Hamdam Development Organization (DI Khan) NWFP	This NGO's work focuses on juvenile justice, legal rights, First Information Report registration, court case procedures, violence against women, community seminars, alliance building, promotional material, sensitization workshops, and institution of a free legal aid center for vulnerable groups.
Pakistan Rural Workers Social Welfare Organization (PRWSO)	PRWSO runs a public awareness and legal literacy training program on family laws for women empowerment, social justice, and equity.

Philippines

Monitoring Progress of Urban Improvements

In December 2003, ADB approved the *Development of Poor Urban Communities Sector Project* to improve the access of low-income urban families to land tenure and affordable shelter. The project also is intended to provide or upgrade basic municipal infrastructure and services, decentralize shelter sector activities through local government units, and strengthen the role and capacity of participating communities. In 2005, local NGOs carried out surveys in communities targeted for upgrading, and prepared community plans and monitoring.

Viet Nam

Identifying Health Risks in a Transport Project

The social assessment for the *Greater Mekong Subregion: Kunming-Haiphong Transport Corridor Project* includes a review of existing anti-HIV/AIDS and anti-trafficking programs of the Government, donors, and NGOs, and recommendations for linkages among them. The Noi Bai-Lao Cai Highway (about 260 km) will link Hanoi with the Chinese expressway network in Yunnan Province.

Uzbekistan

Engaging Communities and Building Local Capacity

Through the *Kashkadarya and Navoi Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Project*, approved in December 2005, NGOs will be engaged as consultants for community consultation, development of subproject planning, monitoring subprojects, and capacity building. The project will assist the Government in the implementation of institutional reform for water supply infrastructure services, and in the provision and upgrading of reliable, financially sustainable water supply services that will improve public health, promote economic development, and reduce rural poverty.

III. CSO INVOLVEMENT IN ADB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS

During 2005, ADB approved 223 technical assistance (TA) projects, of which 86 (39%) include cooperation with CSOs. At the regional level, 30 out of 65 TA projects (36%) approved in 2005 involve CSO collaboration. Table 4 contains the details of involvement of CSOs in projects financed with grants provided from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR).

Following are examples of CSO involvement in ADB-financed TA projects during 2005.

Azerbaijan

Monitoring Progress toward the Millennium Development Goals

In July 2005, ADB approved a TA project to the Republic of Azerbaijan for the *Participatory Strategy Development and Implementation for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals* (MDGs). The project will assist the Government in integrating the achievement of the MDGs into its development planning and implementation processes. The main outcome will be the enhanced planning and monitoring capacity of the Ministry of Economic Development to achieve those goals. Two local NGOs will be engaged in participatory monitoring of projects and policy measures identified in the strategy. Results of the project will be disseminated to NGOs among others through an interactive forum and workshops.

Central Asia

Promoting Responsible Land Management Practices

In March 2005, ADB approved \$500,000 in TA for the Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management. Among the activities supported by the TA is the preparation of national programming frameworks for sustainable land management in participating countries. NGOs are contributing to the elaboration of these frameworks.

India

Supporting Grassroots Initiatives Against Poverty

In June 2002, ADB approved technical assistance for *Integrating Poverty Reduction in Programs and Projects*. Among other things, the TA project finances selected small-scale anti-poverty initiatives carried out by nonprofit organizations in different states of India. The table below describes NGOs that received support under the project in 2005.

Box 4. Integrating Poverty Reduction in Programs and Projects in India

This technical assistance project has supported ADB's poverty reduction and social development objectives by (i) providing services, assets, and opportunities to marginalized beneficiary groups and strengthening their mobilization and participation in social and economic development processes; (ii) building and strengthening ADB's partnership with civil society; (iii) supporting NGO capacity to plan and implement poverty and gender-focused grant proposals; (iv) promoting consultations and interactions with NGOs outside ADB's regular lending operations; and (v) facilitating awareness and ownership of development initiatives by broader civil society.

NGO	NGO Activities Funded by ADB
All India Women's Conference (AIWC), New Delhi	<i>Income Generation for Poor Women Through Solar Dryers.</i> The project will demonstrate the commercial viability of solar drying of fruits and vegetables on a micro-enterprise scale.
Humana People to People India, New Delhi	<i>Women's Empowerment and Socioeconomic Development Program in Poor Peri-Urban Villages of Jaipur, Rajasthan.</i> The project will give women access to finance by assisting women's self-help/savings groups in vocational training and marketing various agricultural products.
SNS Foundation, New Delhi	<i>Income Generation and Environmental Protection through Introduction of Organic Farming among Women in Selected Village Clusters of Haryana.</i> The project will promote organic farming among small and marginal farming communities as a means of livelihood security.
Sense International (India), Gujarat	<i>Creating Educational Opportunities for Deaf-Blind Children in Orissa and Rajasthan.</i> The project will extend vital educational support to children who are both deaf and blind.
Spastics Society of North India (SSNI)/AADI, New Delhi	<i>Supporting Disabled People from Low Income Groups.</i> The project will provide services to disabled people, especially girls, through the rural community-based program of SSNI.
People for Animals, New Delhi	<i>Strengthening Rural Livelihoods and Productivity by Increasing Economic Output from Draught and Pack Animals.</i> The project will develop designs and promote improved bullock cart models through training workshops and local media and events.
Action for Autism, New Delhi	<i>Training Mothers through Outreach and Early Intervention.</i> The project will enable mothers to effectively manage the progress of their autistic children and support development of day-to-day skills in them.
Ila Trust, New Delhi	<i>Extending the Outreach of Medical Services to Under-Privileged and Vulnerable Communities in Assam.</i> The

	project will increase the accessibility and coverage of urgently needed health and medical services among the impoverished tribal, migrant laborers, sex workers, and minorities in inaccessible areas of Assam.
Prakratik Society, Rajasthan	<i>Reducing Incidence of High Maternal and Neonatal Mortality in Sawai Madhopur District.</i> The project will establish an additional indoor facility of 40 beds for the provision of obstetric and neonatal intensive care in Sawai Madhopur.
Rehwa Society, Madhya Pradesh	The project will teach skills to 120 handloom weavers to add value to Maheshwari fabric and create a substantially larger market for this handloom textile.
Hope Foundation, New Delhi	<i>Vocational Training for Women in Low-Income Settlements of East Delhi.</i> The project will provide vocational and literacy training for 360 women over a 1-year period, and provide adult education and family planning counseling to 3,600 women in East Delhi.
Conserve, New Delhi	<i>Recycling Solid Waste to Generate Income.</i> The project will train women from low-income communities to generate earnings from recycling solid waste and using the recycled and reprocessed material to produce finished goods.
RK Sarada Mission (RKSM), West Bengal	The project will expand the coverage and quality of health services provided by the RKSM center under its safe motherhood and child development program.

Nepal

Helping the Most Disadvantaged to Benefit from Development Projects

In December 2005, ADB approved the *Reaching the Most Disadvantaged Groups in Mainstream Rural Development Project*. This advisory TA project aims to reduce extreme poverty and a more equitable impact of rural development interventions, through the integration of the most disadvantaged households, including those from low-caste and ethnic minority groups, in development programs. The project is designed to help the most disadvantaged households to effectively participate in, and benefit from, rural development projects through the implementation of an innovative package of activities. It will also help improve their socioeconomic status and remove sociocultural and financial constraints that keep poor households from participating effectively in these development programs. Local NGOs and CBOs will be implementing partners in selecting beneficiaries, monitoring activities, and undertaking capacity-building activities.

Tajikistan

Promoting Participation in Rural Development

In June 2005, ADB approved \$800,000 for project preparatory assistance for *Rural Development*. The TA project supports the design of an investment project to provide an integrated approach to agriculture and rural development in selected project areas agreed by the Government. NGOs are expected to be involved in several

participatory workshops to formulate the project design and ensure ownership of and agreement to the detailed design and implementation arrangements.

Regional Projects

Promoting Environmentally Sustainable Development in the Mekong

In 2005, ADB launched a regional TA project for the *Core Environment Program and Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative in the Greater Mekong Subregion* (GMS). The Core Environment Program is empowering GMS countries to effectively manage their environment and economic development—through enhanced connectivity, improved competitiveness, and a better sense of community in the subregion—to achieve an overall and sustainable improvement in people’s lives. It is expected that leading environmental organizations, like World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and IUCN–The World Conservation Union, will implement selected activities under the regional TA.

ADB and these two organizations are exploring the possibility of both WWF and IUCN seconding staff at the newly created Environment Operations Center (EOC) in Bangkok. EOC will coordinate transboundary environmental issues, and share resources and information on a long-term and sustainable foundation.

Another regional TA, the *Regional Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network*, is strengthening national agency capacity to promote environmental compliance and enforcement; increasing citizen participation in environmental compliance and enforcement; improving diffusion of innovative solutions and best environmental enforcement and compliance practices; and establishing the Asian Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network (AECEN). In addition, the TA project is providing training to NGOs and other organizations with legal expertise to strengthen practitioner capacity. On 2–3 August 2005, a regional workshop in Manila brought together more than 80 environment officials, judges, lawyers, and civil society leaders from 13 Asian countries to formally launch AECEN and develop the network’s programs and activities.

IV. GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR POST-TSUNAMI REHABILITATION

ADB is providing hundreds of millions of dollars in grant assistance to Asian countries negatively affected by the earthquake and ensuing tsunami that struck in December 2004. The table below highlights how ADB and CSOs have teamed up to support rehabilitation in the wake of the natural disaster. (See also the list of JFPR projects approved in 2005 in Part V, as some of these also target post-tsunami rehabilitation).

Table 3. ADB and CSO Cooperation to Rehabilitate Tsunami-Affected Countries

DMC and Project Title	Type of CSO/Intervention
<p>Indonesia</p> <p>Earthquake and Tsunami Emergency Support Project (ETESP)</p>	<p><i>Bina Swadaya</i> National NGO</p> <p>Bina Swadaya was contracted to provide community facilitation services to ETESP's subcomponents (agriculture, fisheries, and irrigation). Bina Swadaya is helping farmers, fishermen, and water-users association groups to improve their organizational skills and management capacities. It also works closely with community groups in 14 districts, mobilizing experts of participatory development and community mobilization, training, microfinance, and livelihoods development.</p> <p><i>Mercy Corps</i> International NGO</p> <p>Mercy Corps is providing grants to communities, associations, local NGOs, and businesses to restore productivity, and replace microenterprises' income-generating assets destroyed during the disaster. Its efforts are promoting economic recovery in hard-hit communities in Aceh. Community proposals for livestock, crab farming, and fruit plantations have been funded. A total of \$125,000 has been disbursed in the form of livelihood cash grants, and \$192,000 in community cash grants.</p> <p><i>Other NGO Involvement in ETESP</i></p> <p>An indigenous NGO will train 15 other selected NGOs in financial management using the train-the-trainer approach. This will help ADB ensure effective governance arrangements and oversee the flow of ETESP funds.</p>

<p>India</p> <p>Tsunami Emergency Assistance Project (TEAP)</p>	<p>ADB's recovery efforts are focused in the states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu, where ADB's extended mission regularly interacts with NGOs and other stakeholders. Indian NGOs have been actively involved in the preparation of the strategy for livelihood interventions in Kerala.</p>
<p>Maldives</p> <p>Tsunami Emergency Assistance Project (TEAP)</p>	<p>In the aftermath of the tsunami, the Maldives' NGO sector established a forum of about 12 NGOs to promote effective communications, coordinate emergency response, and build on one another's skills.</p> <p>Selected community based organizations and island development centers will receive training to provide services to fish processors for the delivery of project inputs and working capital to the affected fisher folk. They will also distribute grants and tools to farmers and inform them of project assistance.</p>
<p>Sri Lanka</p> <p>Public Works Restoration and Rehabilitation of Line Drainage Systems of the Tsunami-Affected Local Government Roads</p> <p>Post-Tsunami Utility Connections for the Poor</p>	<p><i>Group Action for Social Order (GAESO), Center for Human Development Foundation for Human Development</i> National NGOs</p> <p>NGOs will be responsible for selecting and paying beneficiaries and road workers of affected areas on a work-for-cash basis.</p> <p>Selected NGOs will identify and help beneficiaries to secure access to electricity and water. Participating NGOs will also carry out a public awareness campaign to utility users benefiting from the project.</p>

<p>Thailand</p> <p>Supporting Post-Tsunami Activities and Coastal Zone Management</p>	<p><i>IUCN–The World Conservation Union</i> International agency with large NGO membership</p> <p>ADB engaged IUCN to implement a small-scale TA to support post-tsunami activities and promote sustainable coastal zone management (CZM). Working with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, IUCN's responsibilities include (i) conducting a comprehensive review of policies, laws, and regulations related to CZM; (ii) consulting with key stakeholders involved in the CZM and post-tsunami activities to support effective coordination; and (iii) drafting proposed amendments to legal and regulatory documents for sustainable CZM.</p>
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V: ENGAGING CSOs IN JFPR-FINANCED PROJECTS

In May 2000, the Government of Japan and ADB established the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR), an untied grant facility. From an initial contribution of \$90 million, the Fund now stands at well over \$326 million, of which \$149 million has been committed. JFPR assists ADB clients to effectively tackle the poverty and social consequences that resulted from the 1997–1999 global economic and financial crises. JFPR

- initiates and supports innovative programs that have high potential for improving the affected countries' situations;
- provides relatively rapid, demonstrable benefits through initiatives that have positive prospects of developing into sustainable activities over the long term; and
- assists programs designed and implemented by local populations and civil society.

**Table 4. JFPR-Financed Projects Involving Civil Society Organizations
(Grants Approved in 2005)**

Project No./ Approval Date in 2005	Title/Amount (\$ million)	Civil Service Organization	Nature of CSO Involvement
Azerbaijan			
No. 9075 20 September	Mahalla Business Development Project – \$1.5m	Consortium of international and local NGOs.	Implementing agencies
Bangladesh			
No. 9080 5 December	Social Development for Erosion-Affected Poor in the Jamuna Meghna Floodplains –\$.79m	To be identified	Implementing agencies
Cambodia			
No. 9061 4 January	Improving Primary School Access in Disadvantaged Communes – \$1.87m	To be identified	Beneficiaries, monitoring and evaluation
No. 9064 25 February	Improving the Access of Poor Floating Communities on the Tonle Sap to Social Infrastructure and Livelihood	Osrose Int'l., Siem Reap Community Fisheries Union, Cambodia Family Development Services, Neary Khmer, Japan	Co-Financer, consultant/expert/ trainer

	Activities – \$1m	International Volunteers Center	
No. 9081 21 December	Women's Development Centers – \$1.8m	To be identified	Consultant/expert/trainer, advocacy, information provider
Indonesia			
No. 9065 14 March	Enriching Lives of the Urban Poor through Food Fortification –\$1.75m	To be identified	Beneficiaries, information provider
No. 9072 6 September	Sustainable Livelihood Development for Coastal Communities in the Special Province of Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam –\$2.5m	Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement (Japanese NGO), local NGOs	Implementing agency, consultant/expert/trainer
No. 9073 6 September	Rehabilitation of Coral Reef and Mangrove Resources in the Special Province of Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam Project – \$1.5	Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement (OISCA), local NGOs	Implementing agency, consultant/expert/trainer
No. 9074 6 September	Seismically Upgraded Housing in Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam and North Sumatera – \$2m	Local and national NGOs to be identified	Consultant/expert/trainer
No. 9079 28 November	Assistance for the Restoration of Microenterprise and Microfinance in Aceh – \$2m	Mercy Corps	Implementing agency
Lao People's Democratic Republic			
No. 9062 4 January	Sustainable Agroforestry Systems for Livelihood Enhancement of Rural Poor – \$1.5m	Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) - Lao	Implementing agency

Maldives			
No. 9066 29 April	Restoration of Livelihoods of the Tsunami-Affected Farmers in the Maldives – \$1m	Community-based organizations	Beneficiaries
Mongolia			
No. 9063 10 February	Maternal Mortality Reduction – \$1m	To be identified	Beneficiary, implementing agency
Pakistan			
No. 9067 10 February	Enhancing Road Improvement Benefits to Poor Communities in North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) – \$1m	To be identified	Beneficiary, consultant/expert/trainer, implementing agency
Sri Lanka			
No. 9076 4 October	Public Works Restoration and Rehabilitation of Line Drainage Systems of the Tsunami-Affected Local Government Roads – \$2m	Group Action for Social Order, Center for Human Development, and Foundation for Human Development	Implementing agency
No. 9077 14 October	Post-Tsunami Utility Connections for the Poor – \$2m	To be identified	General consultation, implementing agency
Tajikistan			
No. 9078 4 November	Community-Based Rural Road – Maintenance – \$1.8m	To be identified	Beneficiary, consultant/expert/trainer
Viet Nam			
No. 9071 22 August	Community-Based Agricultural Extension and Training in Mountainous Districts – \$.9m	Canadian Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI)	Implementing agency

In addition to approving the new JFPR-financed projects cited above, ADB continued to implement several previously approved JFPR-financed projects during 2005. Highlights of three such projects featuring CSO involvement appear below:

People's Republic of China

Under the *Innovations for Participatory Flood Control by the Poor Along the Yellow River Project*, approved in November 2001, four national NGOs are engaged as implementing agencies in Shaanxi and Henan provinces in the People's Republic of China (PRC):

- *Poverty Alleviation Cooperative and Poverty Alleviation Association* – implement the microfinance activities in project areas in an efficient and effective manner.
- *Date Farmers Association* – provides training and extension services for the new date farming technologies and marketing skills.
- *Women's Federation* – provides training and extension services related to hand-cut paper handicrafts to poor women.

Mongolia

Creating Jobs for the Disabled

The *Expanding Employment Opportunities for Poor Disabled Persons Project* funded national and local NGOs for four capacity-building activities:

- *Takhilt Rehabilitation Center* – constructed a ramp for access of wheel chair bound people to the center;
- *Mongolian National Federation of Disabled Persons* – helped 200 disabled members to become permanent customers of a newly established Internet café;
- *Humuun Zaya* – supported regular publishing of this newspaper, which reports on events of the National Federation of Disabled Persons to 1,000 readers; and
- *Mongolian Association of Disabled Women* – procured a fax machine to facilitate communications of this NGO serving the needs of disabled women.

In southern Philippines, an NGO is implementing the *Social Protection for Poor Women Vendors in Mindanao Project*, approved in August 2002. The Notre Dame Foundation for Charitable Activities, Inc.–Women in Enterprise Development supervises project activities, including creation of women's resource centers in eight municipalities in Mindanao, and offering livelihood and skills training for poor women vendors. Women market vendors' associations are responsible for direct implementation of project plans and activities at the community level.

VI: CSOs in COUNTRY PROGRAMMING

ADB consulted with CSOs in several countries where a CSP or CSP update was under development in 2005. For example, ADB organized consultation workshops in March 2005 in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) and Viet Nam with representatives of government, ADB, local and international NGOs, and mass organizations. The workshop objectives were to provide a forum for ADB to share information, discuss, and receive inputs on (i) the Regional Cooperation Strategy and Program (RCSP) for GMS and the new country strategy and programs (CSPs) in both countries; and (ii) the key poverty issues with regional dimensions. The workshops were also designed to enhance tripartite cooperation both at the regional and the country levels.

More than 25 CSO representatives participated in the meeting in Viet Nam, and about 20 representatives of international NGOs and Lao PDR mass organizations joined the consultation in Vientiane.

ADB also solicited inputs from civil society in the preparation of thematic assessments that form part of the CSP (see the example of the Philippines Country Poverty Analysis below).

Box 5. A Partnership to Fight Poverty in the Philippines

The Country Poverty Analysis (CPA) for the Philippines was prepared during the second half of 2004 as an input to the Philippines Country Strategy and Program 2005–2009, one of ADB's first results-based CSPs. *Poverty in the Philippines: Income, Assets, and Access* was published in January 2005 to broad press coverage, discussion, and debate. This was always one of the goals of publishing the CPA: to spark interest and raise awareness of the issues surrounding poverty in the Philippines.

The debate and discussion had originally begun with a half-day consultation meeting for external stakeholders, organized at ADB in November 2004. The workshop was attended by 36 participants from government agencies such as the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) and the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB), NGOs, international organizations, bilateral development agencies, and embassies. Participants were given a copy of the draft CPA, along with printouts of CPA highlights in powerpoint presentation form. The presentation was kept brief, given the main goal of stimulating discussion among participants. Among the issues receiving attention were the latest poverty data, inequality, assets and "access poverty", the causes of poverty in the Philippines, the Millennium Development Goals, and an overview of the Government's poverty reduction programs.

The CPA greatly benefited from inputs received at the consultation workshop. One of the most significant comments had to do with a perceived omission from the list of major causes of poverty. The representative to NAPC of persons with disabilities pointed out that an estimated 10% of the population has some form of disability, and that the disabled in the Philippines are overwhelmingly poor. Exclusion and marginalization of disabled people reduces their opportunities to contribute productively to the household and to the community, which in turn increases the risk of poverty. Not only does disability cause poverty, but poverty causes disability as well. The NAPC representative's poignant observations hit home with the CPA team. After further research, disability was added as a 7th major cause of poverty in the Philippines.

A month after publication of the CPA, the NSCB released the newest poverty data for 2003. Results conflicted with what had been predicted in the CPA, which naturally caused some discussion in the press. Building on the ties that had been established during the November 2004 CPA consultative workshop, ADB and the Government agreed to host a joint public forum on poverty estimates, organized at ADB in May 2005. More than 220 participants attended the forum, where various stakeholders deliberated poverty definition and measurement issues, and to discuss the latest numbers. The CPA and other documents were circulated to participants. Attendees included 54 representatives from civil society and academe, 15 NAPC “basic sector” representatives (e.g., urban poor, persons with disabilities, fisherfolk, senior citizens, etc.), international organizations, and 129 representatives of various branches of government.

Source: ADB Southeast Asia Regional Department.

VII. MAJOR CONSULTATIONS WITH CSOs

ADB staff often confer with CSOs in the context of particular projects and country programs. Several resident missions, e.g., in Bangladesh, People's Republic of China, Indonesia, and Nepal, regularly invite CSOs for briefings and to solicit input on ADB operations in individual countries. In addition to these exchanges, ADB organizes larger meetings with CSOs to cover a broad range of issues or to focus on the review or update of a particular policy or strategy. Examples of such consultations follow.

NGO Lobby Days

With the support of ADB, the NGO Forum on ADB—an Asian-led network of advocacy NGOs that monitors ADB operations—launched "Lobby Day" in 2004. This 1-day series of briefings and consultations at ADB headquarters provided an opportunity for visiting representatives of numerous NGOs from across Asia and the Pacific to meet with ADB staff to share concerns and ask questions about projects and policies.

The Lobby Day was expanded to 2 days in 2005 (30–31 March). Meetings were held to discuss CSO concerns relating to the following projects:

- Nucleus Agro Enterprises Project (Papua New Guinea)
- Melamchi Water Supply Project (Nepal)
- Tonle Sap Initiative (Cambodia)
- ADB and International Carbon Trading
- Chasma Right Bank Irrigation Project (Nepal)
- India: North East Power Development
- Sundarbans Biodiversity Conservation Project (Bangladesh)

ADB also organized meetings for NGO members on the following policies, publications, and broad themes:

- The Office of the Special Project Facilitator After One Year
- ADB's Post-Tsunami Assistance
- Public Communications Policy
- ADB in Central Asia
- Water Policy Implementation
- South Asia Infrastructure
- WB-JBIC-ADB Infrastructure Study
- Aid Effectiveness

Consultations with Labor Organizations

ADB also hosted an 11-member international delegation from Public Services International (PSI) on 14 September 2005. Several meetings scheduled over the course of the day addressed ADB's Social Protection Strategy; core labor standards; the roles of the public and private sectors in providing education, health, and water-provision services; possible joint research by PSI and ADB; and future PSI involvement in ADB policy consultations. Mr. Geert van der Linden, Vice President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, met with the PSI delegation.

On 15 December 2005, ADB staff met with several members of the Philippine chapter of the Asian Labor Network on International Financial Institutions to discuss ADB's support for core labor standards and private sector involvement in ADB-assisted activities.

NGO Consultations at the 38th Annual Meeting

ADB welcomed representatives of more than 50 CSO representatives from 23 member countries at its 38th Annual Meeting, held in May 2005 in Istanbul, Turkey. Advocacy groups affiliated with the NGO Forum on ADB were the largest bloc among accredited NGOs/CSOs. The NGOC organized a series of meetings to facilitate CSO interaction with ADB's Management and senior staff. In addition, many CSO representatives arranged smaller meetings with government representatives on ADB's Board of Directors or Board of Governors, and in participating government delegations,

Among the activities organized as part of the NGO/Civil Society Program of the Annual Meeting was a general forum on cooperation between ADB and CSOs. Head, NGOC briefed participants on implementation of the Cooperation Framework. In addition, the NGOC and the NGO Forum on ADB jointly organized three panel discussions on broad themes of particular interest to CSO delegates, including Anticorruption and Governance; Development Effectiveness and Poverty Reduction; and Safeguard Policies.

On the first day of the Annual Meeting, President Kuroda met with CSO representatives and discussed ADB's Accountability Mechanism, ADB's efforts to avoid corruption in ADB-assisted activities, human rights, and access to information by project affected people under the new PCP.

ADB meetings with CSO representatives interested in operational collaboration with ADB yielded concrete ideas for potentially fruitful cooperation in areas such as governance, the environment, and development communications.

NGOs/CSOs in the Development of ADB Policies

Water Policy Implementation Review

ADB conducted a series of consultations to secure feedback from multiple stakeholders in conjunction with the comprehensive review of the implementation of its Water Policy. The consultations were held in Cambodia, Fiji Islands, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, and India in 2005. They involved a wide range of stakeholders, including government and donor agencies, national water sector apex bodies, water service providers, river basin organizations, water regulatory bodies, project staff, project beneficiaries, CSOs, consultants and private sector firms, academe, media, and others.

The large representation of CSOs in the consultations reflects the important strategic role that CSOs play in improving water management and services. In addition to the abovementioned country consultations, ADB organized an international civil society consultation 17–18 November 2005 at its headquarters to further generate and discuss CSO views, interests, roles and potential contributions to the water sector.

Sixty participants from project-affected communities, development/service organizations, knowledge resource groups, professional associations, and advocacy organizations attended the consultation. Members of the review panel leading the review of ADB's water policy implementation, and ADB's NGO and civil society specialists and water operations staff also participated in the consultation.

Participants contributed their views through a survey, an open-ended dialogue, and a panel-led discussion. A workshop was planned but not conducted at participants' request to allow for more direct dialogue with ADB staff. Participants were also given the opportunity to share any additional concerns or issues that were not covered in any of the consultation exercises through a feedback form and a wall blog.

At the urging of ADB, two NGOs, WaterAid and the NGO Forum on ADB, prepared and presented case studies during the consultation.

Safeguard Policy Update

ADB maintains three safeguard policies that seek to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse environmental impacts, social costs to third parties or marginalization of vulnerable groups that may result from development projects:

- Involuntary Resettlement (1995)
- The Bank's Policy on Indigenous Peoples (1998)
- Environment Policy (2002)

In 2005, ADB initiated an update process to enhance the effectiveness of these policies, and to ensure their relevance to changing client needs and new lending modalities and instruments. In particular, the safeguard policy update aims to

- more clearly articulate the safeguard requirements, including better integration of these policies to improve coherence and consistency;
- identify mechanisms to shift from a front-loaded procedural approach to one focused more on results during implementation;
- devise ways to enhance the flexibility in application of the policies to better match lending modalities and frameworks/capacities in DMCs; and
- identify internal process and resource allocation improvements.

On 18 July 2005, ADB posted an announcement on its website to inform stakeholders about the update. A discussion note presenting the key considerations to be taken into account in the safeguard policy update was posted online on 26 October 2005 for information and comment during the ensuing four months.

After the update process was initiated, ADB's Board of Directors requested that the institution's Operations Evaluation Department undertake an independent evaluation of the safeguard policies as an input to the safeguard policy update. OED will carry out the evaluation during the period January–June 2006, after which time a series of face-to-face consultations, at both the country and subregional levels, will be held with

representatives of the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. It is currently envisioned that the final paper resulting from the safeguard policy update will be considered by ADB's Board of Directors in July 2007.

VIII. PARTNERSHIPS WITH LEADING CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS

ADB Cooperation with World Wildlife Fund

On 26 September 2001, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and ADB formalized their ongoing cooperation with a memorandum of understanding (MOU) intended to build on synergies of each organization's strengths and their shared vision of poverty reduction and environmentally sustainable development. Among the highlights of WWF's interaction with ADB in 2005 were the following activities and events in and around the GMS:

- high-level WWF representation at the inaugural GMS Environment Ministers' Meeting held in Shanghai in May 2005;
- input into the GMS Ministerial Statement on environmental sustainability;⁵
- contribution to the GMS Core Environment Program (CEP), and the Environment Operations Center (EOC), which will oversee implementation of the CEP while building capacity for environmental governance in the subregion;
- commitment to assigning a senior technical staff to the Biodiversity Unit of EOC;
- participation as a core member of the GMS Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative (BCCI)⁶, a flagship CEP initiative and primary output of the 2nd GMS Summit of Leaders held in July 2005 in Kunming, PRC;
- provision of technical input, guidance, and support during BCCI field missions to GMS member countries and workshops, and contributions to key documents, such as profiles of pilot biodiversity corridors, and the BCCI Strategic Framework and Action Plan; and
- first-time representation at a GMS Development Partners' Meeting (at the 3rd such meeting, held in Vientiane, Lao PDR in December 2004).

In March and April 2005, WWF staff contributed to country-specific (Lao PDR, Viet Nam) workshops organized as part of the ADB regional TA, Promoting Non-Governmental Organizations' Support for Poverty Reduction in the Greater Mekong Subregion.

During the year, WWF also provided inputs into the review of the ADB fisheries policy being undertaken by ADB's Operations Evaluations Department (OED). OED evaluators met with staff of WWF International and WWF Philippines, held conference

⁵<http://www.adb.org/Documents/Events/2005/GMS-Environment-Ministers-Meeting/joint-ministerial-statement.pdf>.

⁶ Regional economic corridors will play a crucial role in delivering the development agenda in the GMS. But there is concern that increasing development activities in the economic corridors may adversely affect critical ecosystems and high-value biodiversity areas, resulting in fragmentation of natural landscapes. This would undermine the functioning and performance of the region's ecosystems, thereby threatening long-term socioeconomic development and environmental security of the subregion. The GMS BCCI supports the broad-based agenda of sustainable development identified by the GMS countries.

calls with WWF network members, and received a consolidated formal submission which brought together the perspectives of WWF offices in Asia and the Pacific.

In the Pacific, WWF has been working to establish sustainable catch policies for pelagic⁷ fisheries, and communications with ADB on these and related subjects will be enhanced by WWF's placement of a fisheries advisor in the region.

Elsewhere, WWF has been helping to facilitate a fisheries agreement between Malaysia, Indonesia, and Philippines, which may be linked to regional cooperation on infrastructure investment. ADB approved a \$50,000 grant from its Poverty and Environment Fund to launch a sustainable fisheries project in Southeast Asia. These funds are to be matched by the \$50,000 contribution received by WWF USA from the Packard Foundation. A work plan is being jointly developed, and activities will begin in 2006 in Indonesia and the Philippines, in collaboration with other ADB-financed projects.

In May 2005, WWF International sent two delegates to ADB's 38th Annual Meeting held in Istanbul, Turkey. Jean-Paul Jeanrenaud, Head, Business and Industry Relations, WWF International, participated in a multi-stakeholder panel on NGO-business cooperation for sustainable development organized within the NGO Program of the Annual Meeting.

Also during 2005, ADB initiated a comprehensive review of the implementation of its Water Policy. WWF representatives participated in country consultations in Cambodia and the Fiji Islands. In November 2005, the Director of WWF's Global Freshwater Programme, provided examples of WWF's experiences in freshwater conservation and management to help strengthen the future development of ADB's Water Policy.

In Viet Nam, WWF and ADB discussed cooperation on the forest sector policy and program development under the Forest Sector Support Program Partnership Umbrella. In the Lao PDR, WWF participated in stakeholder consultations on ADB's plantation subsector development.

ADB Cooperation with IUCN

At the World Conservation Union Congress held in Bangkok in November 2004, the President of ADB and the Director General of the International Conservation Union (IUCN) signed an MOU to shape their future cooperation. This was the second MOU signed by ADB with a global environmental organization. Although IUCN has over the years evolved into an international agency, some four fifths of its membership consists of NGOs.

The ADB-IUCN MOU identifies two general areas for collaboration and support: (i) poverty reduction at the regional and subregional levels in the Asian and Pacific region; and (ii) other development goals, including achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, at the regional and subregional levels.

The first inter-organizational consultations were held at the ADB headquarters in April 2005, from which emerged a still evolving agenda for cooperation. Among the initial steps taken in the newly formalized relationship were (i) a contract for IUCN's inputs in

⁷ Pelagic fisheries are those that are not near the coast or the sea floor.

the PRC on a review of environmental laws and regulations; (ii) cooperation in GMS on the BCI; and (iii) a joint publication, funded under ADB's Poverty and Environment Program, presenting case studies and lessons learned on the topic of "Poverty, Health and Conservation".

As many technical problems and solutions already are well-known, the program also will emphasize strengthening of local capacity to plan, manage, and maintain biodiversity conservation for its full range of economic and ecological benefits. ADB is coordinating this effort in collaboration with the six countries and with the active involvement of several development partners, including the United Nations Environment Programme, the governments of the Netherlands, the United States and Sweden, as well as leading local and international NGOs, including IUCN.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPARENCY

Keeping CSOs Connected with ADB

In 2005, ADB published six issues of the *Partnership Newsletter*, an electronic bulletin developed to keep CSOs informed of activities in and around ADB. The bimonthly bulletin provides recipients with information about ADB policy developments, projects, conferences, documentation, and educational and training opportunities in Asia and the Pacific. The *Partnership Newsletter* also cites the latest ADB documents available to the public. By the end of year, its subscriber base had reached nearly 1,000.

The NGOC maintains a website (<http://www.adb.org/ngos>) dedicated to ADB's collaboration with CSOs. The regularly updated site explains how CSOs can work with ADB, and contains minutes of consultations, annual reports of cooperation with NGOs, studies, articles, policies, speeches, and other documentation. Among the additions to the site in 2005 was an extensive section on sources of funding for CSOs. At the end of the year, the CSO website continued to rank among the top 15 most-accessed first-level directories on the ADB website.

The NGOC facilitates CSO access to ADB through a dedicated e-mail account, ngocoordinator@adb.org. The account is checked regularly, and most queries are promptly answered. The NGOC receives an average of 1,600 electronic messages per year.

Implementation of the Public Communications Policy

In September 2005, ADB's new policy on information disclosure and dissemination—the Public Communications Policy (PCP)—came into effect. The PCP promotes greater transparency and accountability by enabling ADB's stakeholders—especially people affected by development activities—to better participate in the decisions that affect them. Under the PCP, ADB will make all documents it produces available unless they meet certain exception criteria.

The information and documents that the public will have easy access to include

- ❖ Decisions by ADB's Board of Directors;
- ❖ Core administrative documents, such as the institution's budget;
- ❖ Project information at early stages, to enable more involvement of local people; and
- ❖ Project monitoring and evaluation information

ADB actively sought the views of the interested public in formulating the PCP. Successive drafts of the policy were posted on the web for comment, and ADB staff met with hundreds of representatives of CSOs and other stakeholders at more than a dozen workshops held around the world.

ADB President Haruhiko Kuroda noted that the new policy “puts ADB at the forefront among the multilateral development banks regarding transparency and access to information.” He added that “it is a major step towards improving awareness and understanding of ADB and the development challenges facing the region, giving the public a clear and balanced picture of our work, results, and achievements. At the

grassroots level, ADB will explain project aims and receive the advice of local people affected by projects."

X. IMPROVING ADB CAPACITY TO WORK WITH CSOs

Staff Induction

During 2005, ADB organized quarterly 1-week induction trainings for new staff. The NGOC delivered a module on ADB cooperation with CSOs at the training sessions held in February, May, and August 2005. The Head of NGOC briefed newly hired ADB employees on ADB policy and practice regarding CSO engagement, and informed them of the tools and resources at their disposal to promote such engagement.

CSO Country Profiles

To help acquaint staff with the context for civil society activity in ADB's developing member countries, the NGOC prepared briefing notes on selected countries. The first three briefs—on Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Nepal—were published and circulated to staff. They were also made available on ADB's external website.

Preparing Future Staff Training

During the final quarter of 2005, the NGOC began preparing a new series of trainings for staff on working with NGOs and other civil society groups. While the NGOC regularly assisted and advised operations departments on CSO-related issues, it did not carry out any formal staff training as it had in previous years. Instead, experience from prior efforts was considered in laying the groundwork for at least three trainings to be conducted in 2006 at the headquarters and at selected resident missions.

The objective of the training will be for ADB operational staff to acquire knowledge on the benefits and challenges of working with NGOs and build their skills in: (i) assessing and engaging NGOs/CSOs in consultative and participatory processes required during the project cycle; and (ii) applying criteria for successful collaboration with NGOs/CSOs in project design and implementation.

The training planned for 2006 will highlight the value of working with NGOs in consultative and participatory processes during all stages of the project cycle and introduce practical skills to engage with NGOs in order to increase project success. It will also describe emerging practices in ADB's operational collaboration with NGOs and other civil society organizations.

XI. BUILDING CSO CAPACITY

Pilot NGO Grants Scheme

Between 2003 and 2005, ADB financed more than 70 small-scale poverty reduction projects carried out by NGOs and other civil society organizations in 15 DMCs under a regional TA project, NGO Partnerships for Poverty Reduction.

The TA promoted innovative poverty reduction initiatives and other activities in key ADB-assisted sectors. It also supported NGO engagement in strategic and constructive poverty-related discussions with ADB and governments; and built the capacity of local NGOs to help them work with ADB and governments in the context of ADB's operations in the Asia and Pacific region.

In the last year of the TA's implementation, ADB awarded \$147,000 in grants to 8 CSOs, including the Open Society Forum (Mongolia); Rural Economic Development Association and the Association for Rural Women Development (Nepal); South Asia Partnership (Pakistan); Volunteer Service Overseas (Vanuatu); and the Indonesian NGOs Agro Niaga Jaya Abadi Unggul Cooperation (Kan Jabung), Paguyuban Petani Tani Pinter, and Yayasan PITAL/COPI c.V. (Cooperation Platform Indonesia e.V.).

Promoting Partnerships Between Nonprofit and Profit-Making Sectors

In March 2004, the NGOC, together with the GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals and the Thai NGO, Population and Community Development Association, organized a workshop on "Building NGO-Private Sector Partnerships Against Poverty" in Pattaya, Thailand. The workshop brought together about 15 representatives of CSOs, corporate foundations, and businesses active in the Asia-Pacific region to explore cooperation between NGOs and companies. Participants shared more than 20 case studies of cooperation among NGOs and the private sector to serve socially and environmentally beneficial purposes.

Momentum from this workshop led the formation of a pan-Asian network supporting such partnerships. The secretariat for the Network for NGO-Business Partnerships was officially launched in February 2005 at the Kenan Institute Asia in Bangkok, Thailand. The secretariat facilitates the network's activities by undertaking the following actions:

- Design strategic scope and formulate an action plan in consultation with ADB, GSK Bio, and the Advisory Committee;
- Organize and convene virtual meetings and discussion forums to coordinate bi-annual agendas and their action plans;
- Facilitate with the members to develop agenda on NGO-Private Sector Cooperation, and to market those agenda to stakeholders;
- Assist members in undertaking action plans within their own countries;
- Undertake marketing activities within member countries;
- Present current research and communicate new methods; and
- Respond to enquiries from members, donors and stakeholders

The Network held its first two meetings in May (in Bangkok) and September (in Jakarta). The meetings helped the network to expand its membership and identify priority issues for attention.

XII. IMPROVING GOVERNMENT-NGO COOPERATION

Bringing Civil Society into ADB's Subregional Programming

The regional TA project, *Promoting NGO Support for Poverty Reduction in the GMS*, supported dialogue among governments, CSOs, and ADB in the context of ADB subregional (and country) programming. It also contributed to confidence-building between governments and CSOs, and supported country-level efforts to strengthen tripartite dialogue in CSP development.

A 3-year regional TA project, completed in December 2005, applied practical trials of early CSO involvement in the formulation of ADB's regional and country strategies and programs in the Mekong subregion. ADB uses the RCSP to guide operations in its five operational subregions. The project, supported with a grant from its Poverty Reduction Fund and financed by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), was launched in 2003 under the title of Promoting NGO Support for Poverty Reduction in the Greater Mekong Subregion. ADB's Mekong Department, in close collaboration with the NGOC, used the preparation of the new GMS RCSP and its updates to test more extensive involvement of civil society in the formulation.

By boosting trust among government, CSOs, and ADB, the project has strengthened the foundations for regular future collaboration. It also highlighted the benefits of bringing in the perspectives of CSOs, many of which are working closely with very poor and marginalized communities.

Because ADB has only just started to prepare RCSPs, the project's approach to engage CSOs at the very outset of its preparation was a milestone for the institution. The TA was implemented between 2003 and 2005, and built on the experiences and lessons of previous and ongoing ADB and government collaboration with CSOs. The regional TA sought to operationalize a major recommendation of the Cooperation Framework recommendation, which was to strengthen tripartite cooperation at the subregional and country levels through collaboration in RCSP and the CSP preparation and implementation.

In March and April 2005, representatives from the GMS governments, international and local CSOs, and ADB gathered to share information, discuss subregional poverty issues, and CSPs for the Lao PDR and Viet Nam, which were at very early stages of elaboration. An ADB mission was later fielded in October 2005 to discuss the results with representatives of government, CSOs and the ADB resident missions within Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

While no formal ADB mechanism for cooperation among government, ADB and CSOs yet exists, work carried out under the regional TA served as an important milestone, which has inspired greater willingness from all parties to continue. Participants pointed to potential models in the form of tripartite forums that have taken shape in recent years at the country level, and the involvement of some international conservation organizations in the GMS Environment Working Group at the subregional level.

Some participants recommended establishment of regular arrangements for cooperation among governments, ADB, and CSOs in the formulation of RCSPs and CSPs. There was widespread agreement on the value of early engagement of CSOs in ADB strategy and programming, and greater CSO participation in the GMS Program.

Participatory Development of National Development Strategies

In Viet Nam, ADB helped the Government of Viet Nam to increase public participation in the development of the national Socio-Economic Development Plan, 2006–2010. With financing provided by ADB, ActionAid Vietnam, the national affiliate of an international NGO, and the Centre for Development and Integration, a local NGO, conducted a community consultation in Gia Lai Province over 7 days. The consultation team from these NGOs met with two sample communes in two districts of the province, mostly with the ethnic minorities and very poor people. An orientation about consultation was organized for officials of Viet Nam's Department of Planning and Investment. The NGOs also developed the consultation framework for the province so that provincial officials could apply the same for their local socioeconomic development plan.

The feedback from those consulted primarily related to poverty reduction activities, policies on service delivery, and social issues. Feedback from the district and province level covered a broader picture, including governance, environment, and economic growth. Finally, the team reported on its consultation methodology at a regional consultation workshop held in the Central Region, where senior government officials and policymakers from 19 provinces learned about community comments on the development policies.

V. FUTURE DIRECTIONS IN ADB-NGO COOPERATION

Medium-Term Work Plan for ADB Engagement of Civil Society

Building upon the inaugural tripartite Cooperation Framework, ADB has prepared a new work plan for engaging CSOs for the period 2006–2008. Inherent in the implementation of the medium-term work plan is the presumption that ADB's cooperation with the nonprofit sector is carried out with the understanding, involvement, and support of ADB's member governments.

The work plan targets three areas that complement the Strategic Business Plan of RSDD: Support Quality of ADB Operations, Conduct Training and Build Capacity, and Generate and Share Knowledge. As the unit responsible for coordinating overall interaction between ADB and CSOs, the NGOC will coordinate the following steps to strengthen joint action aimed at poverty reduction:

Support Quality of ADB Operations

- Support interaction with CSOs and solicit their inputs into ADB projects, as well as country, subregional, sector, and thematic policies and strategies.
- Build on the lessons learned from, and recent experience with, NGO small grants scheme to support small-scale civil society actions aimed at addressing the challenges presented by HIV/AIDS and corruption.
- Work with ADB's operations departments and with CSOs to exploit opportunities made available by new consulting guidelines to engage local and national nonprofit organizations as consultants in ADB-assisted activities.

Conduct Training and Build Capacity

- Conduct workshops to enhance ADB staff skills to effectively (i) interact with CSOs, and (b) apply consultation and participation practices to ADB-assisted activities.
- Carry out selected country-level briefings and workshops for CSOs to strengthen their understanding on how to work with ADB, and the institution's expectations regarding the accountability of CSO counterparts.
- Supply tools to ADB staff to enhance their understanding of the CSO context in key developing member countries, and how to carry out consultative and participatory practices.
- Provide advice, information, guidance and leadership to initiatives that promote cooperation between the nonprofit and profit-making sectors to address environmental and social challenges.

Generate and Share Knowledge

- Carry out individualized briefings of CSOs, and organize larger consultations, e.g., at ADB's annual meetings and for the review of major policies and strategies.
- Manage ADB networks that share knowledge and support ADB work in the areas of consultation, participation, and CSO engagement.

- Further develop ADB's partnerships with major international CSO partners, e.g., IUCN, WaterAid, Transparency International, WWF, etc.
- Publish and distribute information on ADB-CSO cooperation and other issues of to CSOs in the form of articles, fact sheets, newsletters, and the annual overview of ADB-CSO cooperation.

The Year Ahead

The year 2006 is expected to witness continued strong engagement of civil society in ADB operations. CSO involvement in projects, both loan and grant funded, will remain at a high level. Changes being proposed to simplify recruitment of local and national NGOs as consultants are expected to be implemented during the first half of 2006. These changes would lower barriers to effectively drawing upon the expertise of grassroots organizations in ADB-assisted activities.

Although the general pilot scheme for financing small-scale NGO projects has wound to an end, the NGOC plans to launch two new small grants projects to support civil society initiatives against HIV/AIDS and corruption.

General dialogue with CSOs will move forward, with civil society participation in ADB's 39th Annual Meeting, to be hosted in early May 2006 by Hyderabad, India, expected to be at or near a record high.

Continuation of the safeguard policy update, adoption of a new policy on regional integration, and the beginning of a review on ADB's Energy Policy, will all involve consultations with external stakeholders, including CSOs. With regard to the first initiative, OED will solicit input from the public on experience with the three safeguard policies as it finalizes its independent report on the implementation of those policies.

CSP development process in different countries will incorporate consultations with CSOs and other stakeholders, as required by ADB's business processes. For example, ADB will be seeking inputs from civil society in Indonesia and India for the CSPs that will be elaborated in those populous nations. In addition, the views of Thailand-based CSOs will be sought as ADB and Thailand forge a unique partnership agreement setting forth the key areas where ADB will assist in the country's further development.

Finally, in the area of capacity building within ADB, the NGOC will undertake several initiatives, including the launch of a new staff training course on working with CSOs; publication of a staff guide on applying consultation and participation in ADB operations relevant to stakeholders generally, including CSOs; dissemination of several CSO country profiles; and production of a staff resource guide to working with CSOs. These tools and resources collectively aim to strengthen the knowledge base and ability of ADB staff to more intensively involve communities in projects and programming, and better capitalize on potential synergies with CSOs.