

11 November 2008

Dear Ms. Corral,

Thank you for your email and your comments on (i) the scope of the Safeguard Policy Update (SPU), (ii) the agenda of SPU Multistakeholder Consultation (19-20 Nov. Manila), and (iii) trade union participation of the Consultation.

On the scope of the SPU, as approved by ADB Management, the SPU covers environment, involuntary resettlement, and Indigenous Peoples. It is envisaged that labor issues will continue to be addressed through ADB's Social Protection Strategy and as part of the requirements indicated under OM Section C3 on Incorporation of Social Dimensions into ADB Operation. Comments related to core labor standards would be addressed in that context.

Given the above, the multi-stakeholder consultation to be held in Manila (19-20 Nov.) will focus on ADB's safeguard policies on environment, involuntary resettlement and Indigenous Peoples. A draft agenda of the 19-20 Manila workshop was posted on the ADB SPU website for comments between 3 -17 October 2008, and the latest agenda has incorporated stakeholders' comments, including many suggestions by CSOs.

On consultation participants, criteria for identifying invitees have been elaborated in ADB SPU Consultation Plan which was posted for external comments and finalized based on stakeholders' suggestions (please see <http://www.adb.org/Documents/Policies/Safeguards/Updated-Consultation-Plan.pdf>). The criteria include: prioritize those who have direct and recent experiences/exposure to safeguard issues (environment, involuntary resettlement, and indigenous peoples) in developing member countries, and provide a balanced representation of various stakeholders from the region and a balanced distribution of participants among the three safeguard areas - Environment, Involuntary Resettlement, and Indigenous Peoples. As we explained in our earlier email, the workshop to be held in Manila will consist of approximately 70-80 participants including representatives of CSOs, government agencies, private sector stakeholders, academia, and international multilateral and bilateral organizations. About 1/3 of invitees are CSO representatives. For those who are not able to attend the consultation meeting, we welcome them to send written comments during the comment period of 3 October - 4 December 2008.

Best regards,

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