

**ADB Water Policy Implementation Review
Civil Society Consultation
ADB HQ, 17-18 November 2005**

**KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MYSORE GRAHAKARA PARISHAT, INDIA
Summary Excerpt from Document
Submitted by Dr. V. G. Vombatkere, President**

Recommendations on ADB's Policies and Procedures

- ADB should re-examine its policies and implementation strategies with regard to privatization and the commodification of water.
- ADB should incorporate in its agricultural policy the following considerations related to water use efficiency: 1) promoting proper balance between cash crops and food crops, and rain-fed and irrigation-fed food crops; 2) providing minimum support price for all food crops including ragi and millets; 3) developing close liaison between farmers and policy makers through the Panchayats, civil society groups, and extension workers; 4) providing marketing, financial, technical, training and extension services to encourage subsistence farmers to adopt sound agricultural practices; and, 5) providing support to implement land reform and reduce contract farming. ADB should also advise governments to review their agricultural policies holistically, and not recommend reforms that would lead to the privatization of water.
- ADB should encourage transparency in planning, and ensure the participation of civil society in all the projects that it funds.
- ADB should consider capacity to pay, and the various factors impinging upon this capacity to pay, in providing loans to civic bodies.
- ADB should ensure that the views of civil society are obtained before a loan is provided.
- ADB should strictly enforce, and not allow its borrowers to violate its environmental and social safeguards.
- ADB should closely monitor adherence by, and hold the Implementing Agencies accountable for the implementation of ADB's environmental and social safeguards. It should involve civil society in monitoring such adherence.
- ADB should revisit the development paradigm that it encourages specifically with regard to how it contributes to accelerating the rapid but imbalanced growth of cities.

Recommendations on ADB's Loan Assistance in India

- ADB should comment on the thrusts being pursued by the Government of India (GOI) under the National Water Policy of 2002 (NWP 2002), including the inter-basin water transfers that will be implemented through the Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) Project and privatization that is reinforced by the continuing lack of control over water by the Gram Panchayats. Inter-basin water transfers would seriously affect water availability because of the centralization of water management. Privatization of water would be disastrous to the poor and urban populations.
- ADB should provide loans for large water infrastructure projects only when GOI would have legislated the rehabilitation of people affected by projects, and formulated a comprehensive rehabilitation policy, not a “skeletal” national rehabilitation policy.
- ADB should not provide funds to the ILR. It should conduct a series of discussions on ILR before taking an independent view on the feasibility of the project as a whole.
- ADB should insist that loans would not be provided in urban areas unless a District Planning Committee is formed and exercises authority for the implementation of projects and the accompanying public works. The formation of a District Planning Committee is in line with the 74th Constitutional Amendment of India or the Nagarpalika Act of 1992.
- ADB should ensure that the funds provided for water testing are not frittered away, and call for the proper functioning of Pollution Control Boards.