

Second Progress Report 12 April 2004

Since the posting of the Inspection Panel's first Progress Report, the panel has spent most of its time preparing for and conducting a visit to the project in Pakistan. In addition, the Panel has conducted a few more interviews in Manila, and worked on drafting the inspection report.

In order to assist the Panel in understanding and assessing some technical aspects of the project the Panel contracted a hydrologist, Mr. Abdul Wahid, who joined the Panel in Manila on March 20th.

The Panel members left Manila the day after receiving their visas for Pakistan, and arrived in Islamabad in the afternoon of March 27th. After a brief coordination meeting at the ADB Resident Mission, the Panel met with representatives of Pakistan's Ministry of Water and Power, the Ministry of Economic Affairs & Statistics, the North West Frontier Province and WAPDA. The Panel held a meeting with one of the Requesters, Mr. Khadim Hussein, at ActionAid Pakistan, and also met with Mr. Sameer Dossani of the NGO Forum on the ADB.

On the following day the Panel traveled to the Project Area. On arrival, the Panel met with WAPDA staff and with two more requesters, Mr. Mushtaq Gaadi and Mr. Asan Whaga, to finalise the plans for five days of field visits. One full day would be spent with WAPDA and project staff, and the remaining four days with the Requesters. Mr. Gaadi and Mr. Whaga explained that they had disengaged from their role as Requesters of the Inspection. Mr. Gaadi would, however, facilitate the Panel's visits to the project affected communities.

During three days the Panel met with villagers at the following locations: Muchaniwali, Jadywali, Katherewali, Gat, Chanr, Tubb and Sokkar. Along the way, several stops were also made to observe project related problems at a number of FCCs, distributaries and nullahs, as well as in the riverine belt and on state land in Raak Tremin in the command area.

On the third day Mr. Gadi explained that he would be unable to spend the fourth day with the Panel as planned. The program was then revised, and the remaining two days were facilitated by WAPDA. On the first day WAPDA took the Panel to see sites in CRBP Stages I and II, and areas to be covered by a planned new lift irrigation scheme outside the CRBP command area in NWFP. On the second day the Panel visited two sites near the riverine belt south of Sanghar Nullah. The field visit was concluded with a meeting with land owners and the Land Acquisition Collector at the WAPDA Colony in Taunsa Sherif.

The hydrologist, Mr. Wahid, accompanied the Panel on the field visit. For most of the time, he conducted his work in parallel with the program of the Panel, and reported back during evenings and mornings. He has submitted his report for the consideration of the Panel.

After traveling to Lahore the Panel held meetings with the Head of WAPDA's Water Division, as well as with representatives of Punjab's Irrigation & Power department and Board of Revenue. The Panel also met with the former Chair of the Grievance Redress and Settlement Committee (GRSC).

The Panel returned to Manila on 7th April. A draft report of the Panel's findings will be delivered to the Bank Inspection Committee on 23rd April. Bank Management and the Requesters will have one month to comment on the draft, after which the Panel will complete its final report.