



# Gender Network News

*The bi-monthly newsletter of Gender Network*

ADB

Newsletter No. 1, Sept. - Oct. 2002

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*Welcome to the first issue of Gender Network News. The bi-monthly newsletter is meant to facilitate the exchange of information across the ADB on gender and development (GAD) activities and resources both within and outside the ADB.*

*This first issue is still experimental and far from comprehensive. From the next edition, the Newsletter will entirely depend more on your inputs on any topic under the outline below! We are also looking for a catchy name for it - any idea? We look forward to your inputs/feedback/questions to Zarah Zafra, RSPR (local 6995; e-mail: [zmzafra@adb.org](mailto:zmzafra@adb.org)).*

*From: Gender Network Secretariat*

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### A. Upcoming Events

**RM Gender Specialist Consultation Workshop (RETA 5835)**, 11-17 September, ADB HQ (Internal Meeting)

Gender Specialists (GSs) from 6 Resident Missions will be in ADB, Manila for one week for workshop and consultation. The workshop provides opportunities for lateral learning and information exchange. During the workshop they will present their work program and share good practice case studies. They are from ADB's country offices in: Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Viet Nam, Indonesia, and Uzbekistan. Since the beginning of this activity three years ago, the GSs have made a significant contribution to gender mainstreaming at all levels of ADB operations. A Professional Women's Committee (PWC) lunch with them is also organized on 13 September. For more information, contact Ces Sanieel-Gois (local 6988; e-mail: [mcgsanieelgois@adb.org](mailto:mcgsanieelgois@adb.org)).



*EFG Members meeting with the President, 5-7 June 2002.*

**Regional Workshop on Core Labor Standards (RETA 5887)**, 18-19 September, ADB HQ (Main Hall Auditorium)

The Workshop will bring together the findings of the RETA (Bangladesh, Nepal, Philippines and Thailand) that commenced in 1999 in collaboration with the ILO to promote a better understanding of the role of core labor standards in the DMCs, in particular those related to child labor, occupational health and safety and gender discrimination. All ADB staff are welcome to participate. The Workshop agenda is available at: [http://www.adb.org/Documents/Events/2002/Core\\_Labor\\_Standards/default.asp](http://www.adb.org/Documents/Events/2002/Core_Labor_Standards/default.asp)

**Two Seminars (Gender and Macroeconomics; Gender and Post-Conflict Reconstruction)**, 11 November, ADB HQ (as part of the 3rd Session of External Forum on Gender)

As part of the 3rd External Forum on Gender (EFG) Session, two open seminars will be held on gender and development issues. The Gender and Macroeconomics seminar will be organized by Caren Grown, Director, Poverty Reduction and Economic Growth at International Center for Research on Women, Washington DC., while the Gender and Post-Conflict Reconstruction seminar will be organized by Patricia Licuanan, President, Miriam College, Manila and Supatra Masdit, President, Center for Asia-Pacific Women in Politics, Bangkok. We will keep you updated as we obtain

more information on these seminars. The EFG Outcome Document from the 2nd Session held in June has been circulated to Management and Board for information and also posted on the website. For more information on the EFG, see: <http://adb.org/Gender/forum.asp>

**B. GAD Activities in ADB**

**Interim Progress Report on GAD Policy Implementation** - Draft circulated for interdepartmental comments

Are we doing better than before in gender mainstreaming in ADB operations? You will find the answer in the Interim Progress Report on GAD Policy Implementation. The Report reviews the progress in implementing ADB's Policy on Gender and Development (June 1998) for the period of 1998-2001. The assessment covers the entire range of ADB operations including CSPs, loan operations, grant-based assistance, sector work, and institutional mechanisms. RSPR is now finalizing the Draft incorporating interdepartmental comments. The Report is scheduled to be submitted to the Board in the 4th quarter of 2002.

**RETA 5835: Enhancing GAD Capacity in DMCs** - Draft Review Report of the Joint ADB/DANIDA Review

Another important GAD review is being completed. This report reviews the progress and



*Ferdousi Sultana, (6th from Left) Gender Specialist, during project site visit.*

achievements of RETA 5835 that has recruited six Resident Mission Gender Specialists to enhance GAD capacity in 6 of the DMCs. The RETA has been under implementation for three years. The Review finds that RETA 5835 has been one of the most successful initiatives under the GAD Policy. Placement of Gender Specialists in RMs has resulted in a significant increase in the number of loans that address GAD concerns, both during processing and implementation. In 2001, the gender specialists in the RMs together contributed to working on nearly 60 projects.

### **RETA 5948: Trafficking of Women and Children in South Asia - Final Reports available**

The one-year RETA on trafficking of women and children in South Asia has completed its main activities including the Regional Workshop in Manila, 27-29 May 2002, and the final reports are now available on our anti-trafficking website (<http://adb.org/Gender/reta5948.asp>) The Regional Synthesis Report and the three country reports (Bangladesh, India, Nepal) analyze the current situation, key factors contributing to vulnerability to trafficking, and key program areas, and provide recommendations to ADB operations at regional, country programming and project levels on how to mainstream anti-trafficking concerns. Other reports include a legal framework overview and proceedings of the Regional Workshop and the Exposure Study Trip to the Mekong Region.

### **2002 Loan Processing - Status of implementation of ADB-wide Gender Action Plan**

The MRM season for 2002 loan processing is mostly over. RSPR has been monitoring the implementation of the Gender Action Plan 2001-2003 committed by the Regional Departments. In the Plan respective Regional Departments have committed pipeline loans for “Gender and Devel-

opment (GD) thematic classification” and those for “Significant GAD Mainstreaming”. So far, for 2002, out of 97 public sector loans planned to be processed this year, 12 loans are likely to carry GD classification while 12 loans will be identified with significant GAD mainstreaming. This compares with 10 and 13 for last year respectively.

### **Staff’s participation in gender conferences/meetings in September/October**

Social Development, Gender, and Social Protection Committee supports Monawar Sultana (SASS) to make a presentation at the Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Gender Equality and Local Governance (26-27 September, Canada) organized by the International Center of Municipal Development of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Discussions are also underway to support 1 or 3 Social Protection Specialists to attend an international knowledge event at the World Bank.

## **C. Resources**

### **Useful websites on GAD - Gender and HIV/AIDS**

The websites below on Gender and HIV/AIDS are featured in this month’s Gender Information Exchange (Genie) Update issued by the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK. For more, visit their website: (<http://www.genie.ids.ac.uk/>)

*World Health Organisation (WHO) - Transforming Health Systems: Gender and Rights in Reproductive Health, WHO, 2002 . Training resource designed to equip participants with the analytical tools to integrate a gender equity and reproductive rights perspective into their reproductive health programmes.*

(<http://www.genie.ids.ac.uk/static/whohiv.htm>)



*Participants to the RETA 5948 Regional Workshop.*



*Sristi Associate CEDPA Seminar (Nepal).*

**United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA):** - Addressing Gender Perspectives in HIV Prevention, UNFPA, 2002. A short programme brief which reviews some of the major implications specific to gender and HIV/AIDS, focusing specifically on thematic and geographical areas of interest to UNFPA.  
(<http://www.genie.ids.ac.uk/static/unfpahiv.htm>)

**United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM):** - Turning the Tide: CEDAW and the Gender Dimensions of the HIV/AIDS Pandemic, UNIFEM, 2002. This book explains how women's human rights can be put to work to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic from a gender perspective.  
(<http://www.genie.ids.ac.uk/static/unifemhiv.html>)

**Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS):** - A review examining research on HIV/AIDS programmes and their significance to women's and men's different vulnerabilities to HIV infection.  
(<http://www.genie.ids.ac.uk/static/whelanhiv.html>)

**GAD proposals for grant funds?** - RSPR can help you!

As you already know, some grant funds are now available within ADB for various purposes. Poverty Reduction Cooperation Fund (PRF) financed by DFID (Department for International Development) UK, National Poverty Reduction Strategy Fund (NPRS) financed by the Netherlands, and the multi-donor financed Water Cooperation Fund are such examples. Gender is an integral dimension in these topics and you might want to include specific activities in your proposal to address gender inequalities. The Gender Team in RSPR is willing to help you in shaping up your

proposals to strengthen the gender dimension. Contact Sonomi Tanaka (local 6995; e-mail: [stanaka@adb.org](mailto:stanaka@adb.org)) for more.

## D. Any Other Business

**ADB Gender Website** (<http://adb.org/gender/>) ranking high in web statistics

The ADB Gender Website (<http://adb.org/gender/>) has been receiving great interest. Since the revamping of the site in March 2002, it has been almost constantly ranked among the top 30 of the *Most Accessed Directories* in the ADB's external website. In addition, Sociolegal Status of Women (17th), Women in Bangladesh (18th) and Women in Tajikistan (26th) have been among the most downloaded files in ADB. The Gender Website provides useful resources including GAD good practices, sector checklists, and upcoming events related to ADB GAD activities. We are periodically updating the site, and you will soon find more information on the ongoing GAD TAs in Lao PDR, Viet Nam and Fiji. We welcome your feedback on the Gender Website to: [gender@adb.org](mailto:gender@adb.org).

**Women in Pakistan** highlighted on the front page of ADB external website

The front page of ADB's external website (<http://adb.org/>) during the week of 9-13 September featured Pakistan, including "Empowering Women" in Pakistan. The Country Briefing Paper on Women for Pakistan and the GAD good practice projects in the country are also featured there. Check it out.

Gender-related articles to appear in upcoming **ADB Review**

The September-October 2002 issue of ADB Review will feature Trafficking in Women and Children. Further, three case studies on gender in Nepal, Bangladesh, and Lao PDR will be featured in the November-December 2002 issue. For the previous issues of ADB Review, go to [http://adb.org/Documents/Periodicals/ADB\\_Review/](http://adb.org/Documents/Periodicals/ADB_Review/).

### *Gender Network Secretariat*

- Sonomi Tanaka ([stanaka@adb.org](mailto:stanaka@adb.org))
- Zarah Zafra ([zmzafra@adb.org](mailto:zmzafra@adb.org))