



# Gender Network News

*The Quarterly Newsletter of Gender Network*

# ADB

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*The quarterly newsletter is meant to facilitate the exchange of information on ADB gender and development activities and available resource both within and outside ADB. For any inputs/feedback/questions, contact Sonomi Tanaka, RSPR (direct 5339; e-mail: stanaka@adb.org or Zarah Zafra, RSPR (local 6995; e-mail: zmzafra@adb.org).*

From: Gender Network Secretariat

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### A. Events

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Multilateral Development Bank Working Group on Gender, 13–14 February 2003, Washington, DC, US**

The third meeting of the Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) Working Group on Gender was held in Washington DC, US, on 13–14 February 2003. Patricia Moser, NARO, and Shireen Lateef, RSPR, represented ADB. The Group prepared a joint statement for the heads of MDBs and international financial institutions, emphasizing the importance of promoting gender equality and empowering women for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

#### **International Women's Day, 7 March 2003, ADB HQ**

To celebrate International Women's Day (8 March), BPHR organized a breakfast event on 7 March 2003 at ADB's Executive Dining Room. In the opening address speech by Vice-President John Lintjer announced ADB President Tadao Chino's approval of a second Gender Action Program (GAP II). GAP II aims to facilitate enlarging the pipeline of women professional staff in ADB, with increased emphasis on career development. It includes clear quantitative benchmarks to ensure effective monitoring. Lydia Balatbat-Echaz, Acting President, Far Eastern University, who was keynote speaker, emphasized increased participation of Filipino women in education and education management but noted the challenges ahead. Following the event, ADB's Professional Women's Committee organized an



International Women's Day (L-R: L. Balatbat-Echaz, Guest Speaker; R. Dawson, BPHR; VPFA J. Lintjer)

activity where women professional staff shared their personal experiences of empowerment of woman.

### **Gender and Water Session at the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum in Kyoto, 17 March 2003, Japan**

Gender issues have been highlighted throughout the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum held on 16–23 March 2003 in Kyoto, Shiga, and Osaka, Japan (<http://www.worldwaterforum.org/>). Two special sessions on gender and water were organized on 17 March 2003. The Gender in Court session, organized by the Gender and Water Alliance (GWA), used a mock trial to analyze the impact of gender approaches in water and sanitation policies, institutions and programs. ADB's Shireen Lateef was one of the judges who reviewed cases. The session on "Gender, Water and Poverty Reduction: Women as Just a Target Group or a Full Partner?" provided examples on the benefits of women's equal participation and the use of gender-tools in water management.

## **B. GAD Achievements**

### **MDB Heads' Joint Statement on Gender in Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**

As a result of the statement prepared by the Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) Working Group on Gender during its 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting, the heads of MDBs issued a joint statement on the importance of addressing gender as a crosscutting theme in achieving the MDGs. The statement was posted on the web sites of all MDBs on International Women's Day. *The statement is posted at ADB's web site <http://adb.org/Documents/News/2003/pr2003002.pdf>.*

### **ADB Signs Letter of Intent with Gender Water Alliance**

As part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum, Jan van Heeswijk, Director General, RSDD, signed a Letter of Intent on 19 March to promote gender mainstreaming in DMCs' water sectors. Given the mutually supportive goal of ADB and the Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) to achieve universal access to safe water and sanitation for all, the partnership will catalyze implementation of ADB's policies on gender and development and water, while also promoting the objectives of GWA. The partnership will also explore the establishment of a gender panel as a mechanism for regular dialogue between ADB and GWA on ADB's water sector initiatives and activities, including flood management. Recently, the United Nations (UN) Committee on Sustainable Development has agreed to set up a Task Force on Women and Water within the UN Interagency Network on Women and Gender to ensure proper implementation and monitoring of gender within the Millennium Development Goals and beyond. *Read the Letter of*



3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum's Gender in Court

*Intent at [http://adb.org/documents/others/GWA/ADB-GWA\\_LOI.pdf](http://adb.org/documents/others/GWA/ADB-GWA_LOI.pdf).*

### **Donors Approve Grants for ADB's Proposed Multidonor Fund for Gender**

Canada (Can\$1.2 million), Denmark (US\$1.2 million), and Norway (Nkr15 million) approve grants to support a proposed multidonor fund for gender and development (GAD). The proposed multidonor fund, with an implementation period of 3 years, aims to accelerate implementation of ADB's policy on GAD and the GAD action plan and is due for Board approval in May 2003.

### **Regional Technical Assistance on Gender and Development Capacity Building in DMCs—Phase 2 Approved**

The phase 2 regional technical assistance (RETA) under which gender specialists are placed in resident missions (RMs) was approved in January 2003. Total cost of the RETA is US\$1.6 million. Under the RETA, 6 gender specialists will be recruited for the following RMs for a period of 3 years: Afghanistan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Uzbekistan. The RETA will also finance gender capacity building activities in 9 DMCs.

## **C. Activities in ADB**

### **Gender Technical Assistance Loan Included in the Decentralization Support Program for Pakistan**

The loan signing for the Decentralization Support Program (DSP) for Pakistan was held on 23 January 2003. One of the two technical assistance (TA) loans to support the implementation of the DSP is the TA on Gender and Governance Mainstreaming. The TA loan will be organized mainly around the implementation of national commitments on gender equality, articulated under the Gender Reform Action Plan (GRAP). The TA loan will assist the Ministry of

Women's Development, Social Welfare, and Special Education; National Commission on the Status of Women; and Women's Development Directorate to effectively implement the GRAP. The GRAP has four key elements: (i) improving women's representation and participation in political and administrative structures; (ii) encouraging a policy shift from social welfare to social development, and from women's development to gender equality; (iii) restructuring institutions (particularly at local level) and procedures dealing with gender and social development issues; and (iv) engendering planning and budgetary processes to narrow the gender gap in public expenditures and service provision, and focus on local service delivery outcomes.

The total cost of the TA loan is estimated at US\$9 million, with ADB financing of US\$7 million while the remainder will be financed by the Government. The TA loan will be effective upon approval of the GRAP by the federal and provincial cabinets, expected before June 2003.

#### Technical Assistance to Prepare the Social Protection for Disadvantaged Women and Children Project in Bangladesh

A technical assistance (TA) to prepare a project aimed at protecting women and children in Bangladesh was approved on 11 February 2003 for US\$500,000. The purpose of the project is to improve services for the target groups, increase access to rights (awareness, recognition, and enforcement of rights), and strengthen the capacity of institutions in charge, especially the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA).

This is the first project preparatory TA for ADB to work with MOWCA as the Executing Agency of the TA. The target groups would include exploited women and children (trafficked, sexually exploited, and labor exploited); migrant women willing to work abroad; retrenched women workers; victims of violence (acid throwing, rape, family torture); homeless, dispossessed, and abandoned women; and children with no families or living on the streets away from their families. The potential interventions of the ensuing project would include (i) targeted services delivery such as drop-in centers for children, services for women in distress, and awareness raising at the community level; (ii) legal support such as legal needs assessment, support for ongoing activities to improve birth registration in the project districts, and human rights awareness raising; and (iii) institutional strengthening.

#### Update on Gender Specialists on Resident Missions

Three of the consultant positions under Phase 1 of the regional technical assistance (Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Viet Nam) are now converted to regular national officers. Under

Phase 2, gender specialists for ADB resident missions (RMs) in Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Uzbekistan will be locally recruited. In addition, a specialist will integrate gender issues into the Afghanistan program. Recruitment of gender specialists for RMs in Cambodia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Uzbekistan is currently ongoing. It is hoped to have them onboard by June 2003.

#### Other GAD Activities by ADB Staff

Various missions for GAD projects have been carried out in January–March 2003. **Sonomi Tanaka**, RSPR, visited Kolkata and Delhi, **India** on 16–23 January 2003 to explore a potential poverty grant fund project to prevent and reduce trafficking in women and children. The project is intended to be a part of an urban infrastructure project in Kolkata.

**Yuriko Uehara**, MKOC, visited **Cambodia** on 3–7 February to initiate development of a gender strategy as part of the upcoming country strategy and program for the country and attend a Consultation Workshop on Country Gender Assessment by the World Bank. **Monawar Sultana**, SASS, visited **Bangladesh** from late February to early March to carry out a review mission for the regional technical assistance (RETA) on Gender and Governance Issues in Local Government. In **Lao People's Democratic Republic**, **Sonomi Tanaka** supervised the ongoing work to help the Government prepare gender strategies for the National Poverty Reduction Program and the Northern Strategic Action Plan. **Susanne Wendt**, SESS, carried out a review mission on 3–12 February for the advisory technical assistance on Gender Equity in Policy and Program Planning in **Indonesia**. She also made a presentation on GAD in ADB-Asian Institute of Technology Seminar in Bangkok on 24–25 February. **Ava Shrestha**, NRM, attended the 3rd World Water Forum in **Japan** and presented a paper on ADB's gender and water activities. In April, she attended an international symposium on "New Vision for Gender Policy: Equality, Development and Peace" in **Seoul** (17–18 April) where she presented a paper on gender and governance. **Sri Wening Handayani**, SAID, visited **Bhutan** in April and held discussions with government officials on the JFPR project on women road workers.

## D. Resources

#### Useful Web Sites on GAD

*United Nations (UN) Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI)* has a new web site. OSAGI's new web site includes a section on gender mainstreaming, providing links to concepts and definitions, tools to support gender mainstreaming, and good practice examples. For more information, visit: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/index.html>.

*UN Meeting on Gender and HIV/AIDS:* The global community increasingly recognizes the need to address gender-based discrimination in HIV/AIDS interventions. This was highlighted at the recent session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. The Commission concluded that the lack of economic independence and decision-making power of women are making them vulnerable to the epidemic. *For more information, go to [http://www.unfoundation.org/unwire/util/display\\_stories.asp?objid=13554](http://www.unfoundation.org/unwire/util/display_stories.asp?objid=13554).*

*Launching of Gender and HIV/AIDS Web Portal:* A new gender and HIV/AIDS web portal launched in February 2003, aims to provide researchers, policymakers and practitioners increased access to information on HIV/AIDS. This was developed by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in collaboration with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). The portal is a one-stop on-line resource center on the gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS epidemic. *For more information, visit the global gender and HIV/AIDS web portal at <http://www.GenderandAIDS.org>.*

*Globalisation, Labour Standards, and Women's Rights—Dilemmas of Collective Action:* This document assesses the view that globally enforced labour standards are in the interest of workers, particularly those unable to fight for such standards themselves. While such views may be genuinely held, the author believes that they are based on a historical and uncontextualized understanding of what is at stake. *Visit <http://www.africapulse.org/index.php?action=viewarticle &articleid=871>.*

*International Women's Tribune Center (IWTC) Women's GlobalNet #222: Women Make Strides in International Human Rights Law:* International Criminal Court Elections—Seven Women Elected. This page reports on the development for gender representations on an international tribunal. Seven women were elected to the International Criminal Court in 18 ballots on Feb 4–7 2003. Fifteen judges have been selected to the court with three seats remaining. Candidates require a two-thirds majority of votes to be elected. *For current updates, visit <http://www.iccnw.org>.*

*Helping Women Helps Everyone, The World Bank:* The March issue of the World Bank's Kid's DevNews educational web site focuses on gender and gender inequality. The theme coincides with International Women's Day (March 8) and the issue carries articles on why and how women and girls are discriminated against, and why investing in them is important in the fight against poverty and for the common good. (<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20097711~menuPK:34457~pagePK34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>)

*An Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Gender Conference* "Optimizing Gender Digital Opportuni-

ties" will be held in 27-30 May 2003, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. *Visit <http://www.globalknowledge.org> for more information.*

### Useful Publications

*Gender Mainstreaming in Poverty Eradication and the Millenium Development Goals: A Handbook for Policymakers and other Stakeholders* by Naila Kabeer, Commonwealth Secretariat Publications (2003).

*Gender Maintstreaming on Development Planning* by Vivienne Taylor, Commonwealth Secretariat Publications (1999).

## E. Any Other Business

### Forthcoming Gender and Resettlement Checklist

The upcoming Gender and Resettlement Checklist is designed to assist staff and consultants in implementing the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Policy on Involuntary Resettlement (November 1995) and Policy on Gender and Development (June 1998). It will guide users in identifying and addressing gender issues in resettlement planning, implementation, and monitoring, and in designing gender inclusive resettlement plans. *To download, visit [http://www.adb.org/Documents/Manuals/Gender\\_Checklists/Resettlement/default.asp?p=gencheck](http://www.adb.org/Documents/Manuals/Gender_Checklists/Resettlement/default.asp?p=gencheck)*



### Forthcoming Publication on Combating Trafficking of Women and Children in South Asia

The Poverty Reduction and Social Development Division will publish a report, synthezing the discussions and findings of a regional technical assistance on Combating Trafficking of Women and Children in South Asia (Bangladesh, India, and Nepal). The publication is a two-volume report on (i) Combating Trafficking of Women and Children in South Asia: Regional Synthesis Paper for Bangladesh, India, and Nepal; and (ii) Combating Trafficking of Women and Children in South Asia: Guide for Integrating Trafficking Concerns into ADB Operations. *You can view the publication at [http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Combating\\_Trafficking/default.asp](http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Combating_Trafficking/default.asp).*

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