



BAKU 2015
2-5 MAY

Civil Society Program

(As of 23 April 2015)

GUIDE TO PARTICIPANTS

48TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

ADB

About this Guide

The NGO and Civil Society Center (NGOC) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) produced this guide to assist civil society organizations (CSOs) participating in events during the 48th Annual Meeting of the ADB Board of Governors. Through the Annual Meeting's Civil Society Program (CSP), ADB engages with NGOs, labor unions, academia, think-tanks, community-based organizations, and other civil society groups and provides opportunities for dialogue, knowledge sharing and networking with other CSOs as well as other Annual Meeting participants.

Annual Meeting Location and Schedule

More than 3,000 participants, including heads of state, finance ministers, central bank governors, and representatives from the private sector, academe, media, and civil society are expected to attend the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors in the Heydar Aliyev Center, Baku, Azerbaijan from 2 – 5 May 2015 (Saturday through Tuesday).

Key Dates

Meetings, Civil Society Program, Seminars and Networking Events – 2-5 May 2015

Opening Session – 4 May 2015

Business Sessions – 4-5 May 2015

The theme of the 2015 meeting is “**Fostering Partnership for Development**”.

Registration

All participants, including those who preregistered, should pick up their Annual Meeting ID at the Registration Center located at the Heydar Aliyev Center¹ 2, which is open on the following schedule:

Friday, 1 May - 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, 2 May - 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, 3 May - 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Monday, 4 May - 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, 5 May - 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Tentative Schedule – All Events

Updated schedule of all events, including the CSP is found on: <https://osec.adb.org/eChart/Main>

Participation of CSOs in the Annual Meeting

ADB welcomes the participation of accredited CSO representatives to its 48th Annual Meeting. By end of online registration on 20 April, 169 CSOs representatives from more than 30 countries were pre-registered to participate.

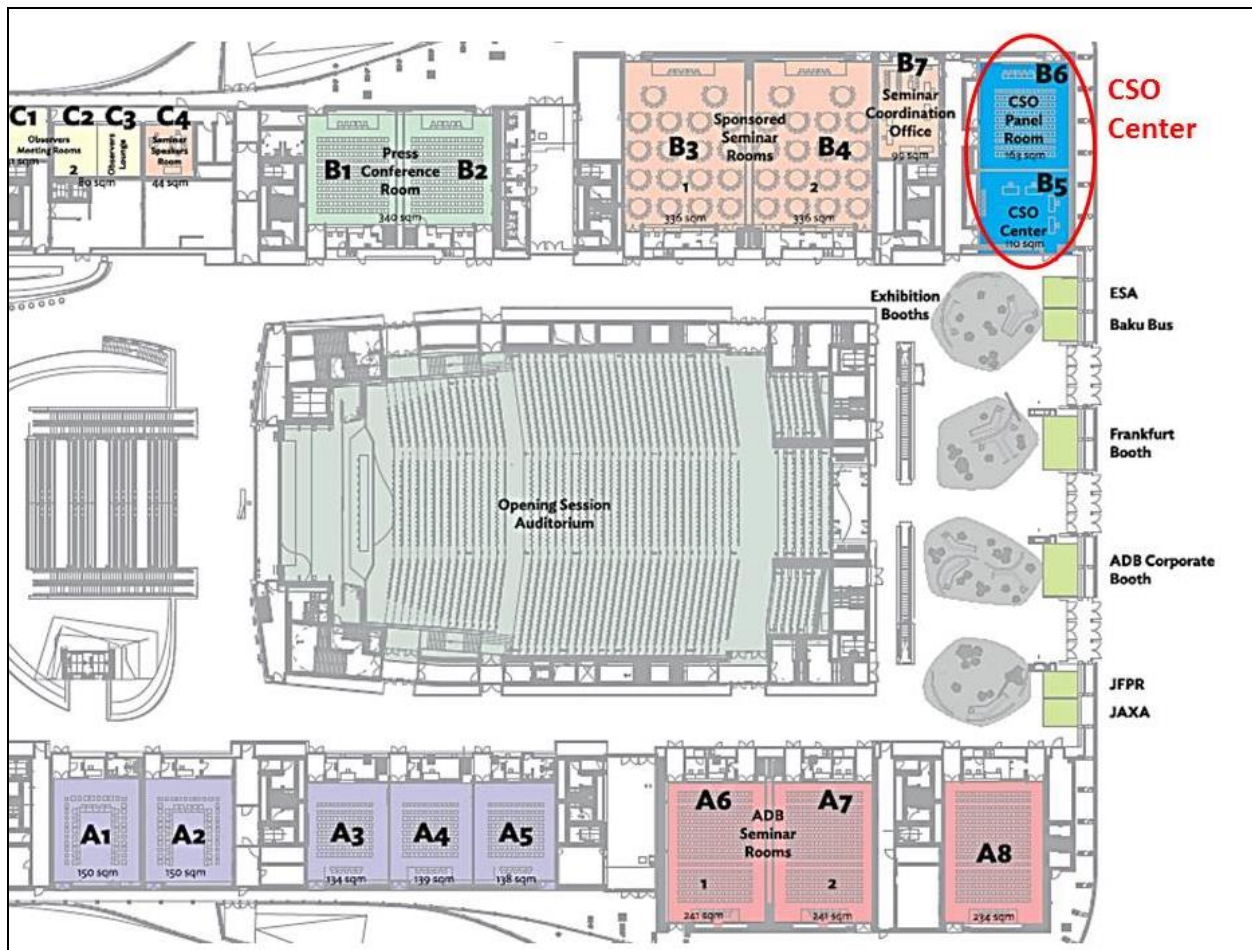
The CSP features eleven events that include five knowledge sharing sessions called “Learning with Partners” (LWP), four panel discussions, and a youth debate, which are jointly organized with key CSOs. The traditional start to the CSP is a one hour Q&A with members of ADB Management (Traditionally ADB's President has been attending this meeting).

CSO Center and Conference Facility

All CSO events take place at the Heydar Aliyev Center Building 2. The CSO Center is located at the 2nd floor, Rooms B5 & B6. It has a dedicated conference area and a working space/lounge for CSO

¹ The existing (old) Heydar Aliyev Center is now being referred to Heydar Aliyev Center 1, some Annual Meeting events will be held here, its 5 minutes' walk across the road from Heydar Aliyev Center 2

participants. Computers and WIFI are available at the CSO Center where the office of NGOC staff is also located.



Visa Information

Mutual visa-free regime is applied between Azerbaijan and 51 countries². If visa is required, participants may obtain visa prior to arrival or upon arrival. However, those residing in countries that have an Azerbaijan embassy or consulate has the option to obtain a visa from the Embassy/Consulate. For queries: visainquiry@adb2015.az

Airport and Transport

Shuttle Bus Service will be available from Airport to Official Hotels from 29 April to 3 May, from hotels to airport from May 3rd to May 7th. Also shuttle buses will be available to and from venues for each official hotel.

Currency

Local currency is "Manat" (AZN). Foreign currency and travelers' cheques can be exchanged for Azerbaijan manats in all banks. Currency exchange can be made at all official exchange points that you

² <http://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/page/82775/visa-free-regime.pdf>

can find everywhere. It is necessary to keep a receipt of exchange until departure from the country. It is not recommended to exchange money with the locals in the railway stations. As of 22 April 2015, the exchange rate is about AZN 1.05 to US\$1.

Language

Azeri and Russian are spoken by the local population. English is usually used by staff of major tourism, companies and hotels.

Climate

The Azerbaijan has the climate of subtropics with hot sunny summer and short mild winter. The average annual temperature in Baku is around 14.2°C. The average temperature in July is +26°C, in January is +3°C and in May is +18.5°C.

Dress Code

Business attire or national dress is preferred for the Annual Meeting, appropriate to the weather.

Security

Special security measures will be enforced during the Annual Meeting and at all other venues for official events. Briefcases, handbags, cameras, cell phones, etc. must be presented for inspection when requested by the security officers on entering the secured perimeter at the Complex and at venues for the opening session, networking events and any other restricted areas.

NGO and Civil Society Center

ADB's NGO and Civil Society Center (NGOC) - working closely with an institution-wide CSO cooperation network - supports CSO participation in ADB operations. As a window for CSO engagement, the NGOC identifies and develops strategic partnerships between ADB and CSOs. The NGOC staff office is in the CSO Center, feel free to come by and learn more about the work of NGOC.

- Chris Morris, Unit Head, NGO and Civil Society Center, cmorris@adb.org
- Suzanne Nazal, Senior Social Development Officer, snazal@adb.org
- Yagut I. Ertenliche, Azerbaijan Resident Mission, yertenliche@adb.org

Social Media Coverage

Join the discussion and get live updates through:

Facebook: [fb.com/ADBandNGOs](https://www.facebook.com/ADBandNGOs)

Twitter: [@ADBandNGOs](https://twitter.com/ADBandNGOs)

Keep track of important information through the hashtags:

Civil Society Program: [#ADBNGOC](#), [#CSOMatter](#)

ADB Annual Meeting: [#ADBaku2015](#)

Points of Interest in Azerbaijan

Tour packages are available on: <http://bit.ly/1Eg9cFs>

Contact: Arif Qarayev, inboundtours.adb@azta.az, adb@azta.az



Civil Society Program

All events will have simultaneous translation English-Azeri/ Azeri-English

- 2 May** Meeting between Civil Society Organizations and ADB Senior Management
10:00am - 11:00am Heydar Aliyev Center Building 2, Room A7
- Civil Society Panel: Beyond 2015: Role of International Finance Institutions in Post-MDG Development Agenda (NGO Forum on ADB)**
11:30am - 01:30pm Heydar Aliyev Center Building 2, Room B6
- Learning with Partners 1: Sustainable Financing and Economic Benefits of Nature Protection in the Southern Caucasus ((WWF, KfW, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan, IDEA)**
02:00pm - 04:00pm Heydar Aliyev Center Building 2, Room B6

- 4 May** Youth Debate Finals (Plan International)
12:30pm - 02:00pm Heydar Aliyev Center Building 2, Rooms B1 and B2
- Learning with Partners 4: Lessons in Disaster: Creating Resilient Communities (Plan International)**
02:00pm - 04:00pm Heydar Aliyev Center Building 2, Room B6
- Civil Society Panel 4: Impacts of Infrastructure Financing on Grassroots Communities (NGO Forum on ADB, PSI)**
04:00pm - 06:00pm Heydar Aliyev Center Building 2, Room B6

- 3 May** Learning with Partners 2: Bridging the Road Safety Gap through Government, Civil Society, and Private Sector Partnership (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Global Road Safety Partnership, Hayat National NGO)
09:00am - 11:00am Heydar Aliyev Center Building 2, Room B6
- Learning with Partners 3: Civil Society, Governance, and Inclusive Economies: Recent Developments (Partnership for Transparency Fund, Open Government Partnership)**
11:30am - 01:30pm Heydar Aliyev Center Building 2, Room B6
- Civil Society Panel 2: How Safeguard Policies of Selected MDBs Impact on Development Financing (NGO Forum on ADB)**
01:30pm - 03:30pm Heydar Aliyev Center Building 2, Room B6
- Civil Society Panel 3: Inclusive Growth and Food Security (Oxfam, AgriCord)**
04:00pm - 06:00pm Heydar Aliyev Center Building 2, Room B6

- 5 May** Learning with Partners 5: The Great Equalizer: ICT for Inclusive Development (ASSIST)
09:00am - 11:00am Heydar Aliyev Center Building 2, Rooms B1 and B2

48TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK



Saturday, 2 May 2015

Meeting between CSOs and ADB Senior Management

10:00 am - 11:00 am

Representatives of ADB Management will meet with CSOs, to discuss concerns relating to ADB operations and ADB's engagement with CSOs. Given the large turn-out expected, those joining the meeting are requested to kindly arrive early and be seated by 9:45 am. Should anyone wish to pose a question, please keep interventions concise to enable others to participate.

This meeting is for ADB staff and CSO representatives only (not for media).

Civil Society Panel Discussion 1:

Beyond 2015: Role of International Finance Institutions in Post-MDG Development Agenda

Organized by NGO Forum on ADB

11:30 am – 1:30 pm

It is widely believed that poverty is decreasing due to the growing spread of free market capitalism with the help of “development finance.” However, indicators show that inequality is increasing and peoples’ resilience and health are approaching breaking points brought about by “human and environmental abuse”. Private sector and private finance involvement in both development and climate financing have also been given importance, which has resulted to “greater corporate capture and deeper financialization of public goods and essential services”.

This panel seeks to address key civil society concerns under the broad heading of “Limits to Growth.” Key issues for discussion include the (i) environment, (ii) poverty and inequality, (iii) human rights, (iv) transparent, responsible, and accountable development financing to realize Post-MDGs, (v) impacts on gender, children, migrants and marginalized communities, and (vi) energy and climate change within the context of planetary limits.

Invited Speakers:

- Rachel Denber, Europe and Central Asia Director, Human Rights Watch
- Richard Edwards, Executive Director, ADB (Austria, Germany, Luxembourg, Turkey, and United Kingdom)
- Annie Enriquez-Geron, General Secretary, Public Services Labor Independent Confederation
- Anselmo Lee, Co-Convener, Asia Development Alliance
- Hemantha Withanage, Executive Director, Centre for Environmental Justice

Learning with Partners 1:

**Sustainable Financing and Economic Benefits of Nature Protection
in the Southern Caucasus**

Organized by WWF, KfW, and Ministry of Ecology & Natural Resources of Azerbaijan, IDEA

2:00-4:00 pm

During the past decade, KfW and WWF have promoted the introduction of innovative financial instruments to sustain the natural capital, such as forest and rivers, and to provide financial resources for the nature protection sectors in the Southern Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia). Components of support to these countries include the establishment and effective management of Protected Areas, the establishment of the Caucasus Nature Fund, and the recent establishment of the Eco-regional Corridor Fund.

The panel will share views on the economic and social benefits of investing in the natural capital in the Southern Caucasus. In addition, it will share experiences in best practices of innovative financing

solutions for conservation, and discuss how these can contribute to economic development.

Invited Speakers:

- Farid Jafarov, Leading Specialist, IDEA PU
- Giorgi Sanadiradze, WWF-Caucasus Office
- Lars Oermann, KfW Caucasus
- Mario Sander, Alternate Executive Director, ADB (Austria, Germany, Luxembourg, Turkey, and United Kingdom)
- Arzu Samadova, Senior Adviser, Department for Protection of Biodiversity & Development of PAs, MoENR of Azerbaijan

Moderator:

- Nessim Ahmad, Deputy Director General, Regional and Sustainable Development Department, concurrently Chief Compliance Officer, ADB

Sunday, 3 May 2015

Learning with Partners 2:

Bridging the Road Safety Gap through Government, Civil Society, and Private Sector Partnerships

Organized by International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies,

Global Road Safety Partnership, Hayat National NGO

9:00 am - 11:00 am

Road safety and sustainable transportation have become major drivers of change in countries in Central Asia. Over the last decade, important efforts have been made to support and increase both government and civil society stakeholder capacity, promoting long-term and sustainable partnerships and knowledge sharing, and increasing collaboration and cooperation within the region. Currently, many civil society organizations and corporate groups have become powerful agents of change in road safety terms.

This panel will discuss both lessons and challenges in implementing good road safety practices by drawing experience from the past and explore how relevant stakeholders, namely international NGOs, governments, and corporations, respond to these growing concerns. The panelists will cover topics such as: models for civil society partnership in road safety, multi-stakeholder partnership in addressing road safety issues; regional initiatives in road safety; and steps in strengthening regional road safety nets.

Invited Speakers:

- Gela Kvashilava, Founder, Partnership for Road Safety, Georgia
- Olly Norojono, Country Director, Azerbaijan Resident Mission, ADB
- Hadi Rajabli, MP, Head of Social Committee, Mili Majilis, Azerbaijan
- Bayram Valiyev, Secretary General, Azerbaijan Red Crescent
- Barry Watson, CEO, Global Road Safety Partnership

Moderator:

- Vusal Rajabli, President, Hayat National NGO

Learning with Partners 3:

Civil Society, Governance, and Inclusive Economies: Recent Developments

Organized by Partnership for Transparency Fund, Open Government Partnership

11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Building inclusive societies and institutions is one of the 17 proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDG #16). Among the key themes included in SDG #16 are: access to information, participatory decision making, reducing corruption and recovery of stolen assets, responsive and accountable institutions, access to justice, and rule of law. SDG #16 is being advocated and supported by civil society, which has played a major role in furthering these themes. It is expected that civil society will continue to work with

the governments in helping accomplish results in these thematic area.

This session will discuss examples of how civil society has contributed to results in the key thematic areas included in the proposed SDG to build inclusive societies and responsive and accountable institutions. In particular panelists from five countries (Azerbaijan, India, Georgia, Indonesia, and Kyrgyzstan) will draw on the experiences of civil society engagement in their countries, some of which are members of the Open Government Partnership.

Invited Speakers:

- Nurzat Abdyrasulova, Director, Civic Foundation UNISON, Kyrgyzstan
- George Cherian, Director, CUTS International, India
- Vugar Bayramov, Chairman, Center for Economic and Social Development (CESD), Azerbaijan
- Vinay Bhargava, Chief Technical Adviser, Partnership for Transparency Fund
- Bart W. Édes, Director, Social Development, Governance, and Gender Division, ADB
- Giorgi Kldiashvili, Director, Institute for Development of Freedom of Information, Georgia
- Nanda Sihombing, Open Government Specialist, Center for Regional Information and Studies, PATTIRO, Indonesia

**Civil Society Panel Discussion 2:
How Safeguard Policies of Selected MDBs Impact on Development Financing**
Organized by NGO Forum on ADB
1:30 - 3:30 pm

In view of the perceived weakening of the World Bank Safeguards as, it is important to consider the safeguards standards and practices of other IFIs, such as the Asian Development Bank, International Financial Corporation and the newly-created Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. Civil society groups realize the need to have a clear understanding of what is meant by “safeguards”. In its simplest definition, safeguards imply a set of steps or measures taken to protect someone or something from harm. However, there exists a continual struggle on the implementation of the policy.

The panel will discuss the on-going World Bank safeguards review process and ADB’s full-policy review of its 2009 Safeguard Policy Statement; and their significance to the new multilateral organizations.

Invited Speakers:

- Joe Athialy, Acting Asia Director, Bank on Information Center
- Stephanie Fried, Executive Director, Ulu Foundation
- Rayyan Hassan, Executive Director, NGO Forum on ADB
- Korina Horta, International Finance, Human Rights and Environmental Campaigner, Urgewald
- Titi Soentoro, Policy Advisor, Aksi! for gender, social and ecological justice
- Nessim Ahmad, Deputy Director General, Regional and Sustainable Development Department, concurrently Chief Compliance Officer, ADB

**Civil Society Panel Discussion 3:
Inclusive Growth and Food Security**
Organized by the Oxfam, AgriCord
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

In the current development context in Asia, it is essential to ensure that growth results in improved livelihoods. In order to achieve inclusive growth, the ADB must spend greater focus on designing and monitoring projects in terms of their impacts at household and individual levels. Food security is a prerequisite for reducing inequality and promoting inclusive growth, sustainable development and political stability. The ADB and member governments have the opportunity to take leadership in advancing inclusive growth by being aware of how it translates terms of people's quality of life. It is equally important that the ADB takes into account the experiences and voices of small-scale farmers and farmers organizations in designing its agriculture projects and projects with the cross-cutting objective of food

security.

This panel will explore different experiences and perspectives on monitoring of agriculture projects, farmers' experiences and food security. These perspectives will be assessed in terms of their relevance to inclusive growth. Speakers will present recommendations for monitoring of inclusive growth and food security.

Invited Speakers:

- Shimpei Murakami, Chairperson, Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development
- Noël Monteyne, AgriCord
- Jessica Rosien, Oxfam
- Vinod Thomas, Director General, Independent Evaluation Department, ADB

Monday, 4 May 2015

Youth Debate Finals

Organized by Plan International
12:30 - 2:00 p.m

As part of its Youth Initiative, ADB provides opportunities for young people to discuss and analyze national and global development issues using debating as a methodology. This session will also allow the audience to participate in the discussions. For this year, top debating teams from Central Asian countries have joined the qualifying round. The debate finals take place at the Annual Meeting.

Learning with Partners 4: Lessons in Disaster: Creating Resilient Communities

Organized by Plan International
2:00 - 4:00 pm

This forum highlights the role of various actors including young people, community members, NGOs and civil society organizations and financial institutions in disaster preparedness, disaster risk mitigation, disaster response, recovery and rehabilitation. The session will also discuss how ADB's Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR), cooperates with NGOs and other partners, in disaster preparedness, prevention, mitigation, and rehabilitation efforts. Established in 2000, the JFPR supports ADB with its poverty reduction efforts in developing member countries.

Invited Speakers:

- Takeshi Koike, Financing Partnerships Specialist, ADB
- Marlene Ramirez, Secretary General, Asian Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Asia (AsiaDHRRA)
- John Barrett Trew, Youth Employment Specialist, Plan International Asia

Moderator:

- Mike Bruce, Regional Communications Manager, Plan International

Civil Society Panel Discussion 4: Impacts of Infrastructure Financing on Grassroots Communities

Organized by NGO Forum on ADB, Public Services International
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

The creation of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) raises concerns among civil society groups on possible "conditionalities" related to development finance in Asia. The emerging models for financing infrastructure development may pose problems, such as preference for mega-projects over "appropriate scale" projects which raises the question of who the beneficiaries of the infrastructure projects are likely to be. Secondly, there may also a bias in favor of public-private partnerships over traditional public works. This panel examines the impacts of ADB infrastructure investments in the context

of trans-boundary mega projects, the consequences of ADB's Project Preparation Facility and Public-Private Partnerships.

Invited Speakers:

- Chinara Aitbaeva, President, Public Union Youth Movement "Nashvek"
- Stephen P. Groff, Vice President (Operations 2), ADB
- Robie Halip, Institutional Support Service, Head, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact
- Namig Rzayev, Head, the Oil Workers' Rights Protection Organization
- Mazakazu Tahara, President, UNI Apro Finance
- Dr. Yu Xiaogang, NGO Forum on ADB

Tuesday, 5 May 2015

**Learning with Partners 5:
The Great Equalizer: ICT for Inclusive Development**
Organized by ASSIST
9:00 - 11:00 am

The past few years have opened many opportunities for the youth in Asia to be engaged in development, especially with the rise of social enterprises and digital technology. This forum will discuss trends on the use of technology for inclusive development. Representatives from the private sector, youth groups, and social entrepreneurs will share lessons on the use of technology for social good. Organized as a multi-location based web-enabled meeting, this forum will further add credence to the use of technology and also manage costs while bringing to the table many contributors with varying perspectives.

Learn about ADB's Accountability Mechanism

Jitendra "Jitu" Shah, Special Project Facilitator and Dingding Tang, Chair, Compliance Review Panel; will be available to meet you at the CSO Center. The schedule will be announced in due time. Notify the NGOC staff if interested. Information on ADB's Accountability Mechanism can be found on: <http://www.adb.org/site/accountability-mechanism/main>