ADB-assisted project civil monitoring (Kazakhstan, Jambil Province)

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Ref. No. 12 as of 04.11.2009

The Office of the Special Project Facilitator (OSPF)
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Dear staff of the Office of the Special Project Facilitator,

We are the monitoring group of the ADB-assisted project “West Europe – West China” Transport Corridor Rehabilitation at Jambil Province site Koshelekova Svetlana and Baurjan Isaliyev representing Taraz Press Club Public Union and DYUK Public Union.

We took a number of Migration Policy monitoring measures in Riskul, Merke and Baizak Regions. We participated in public hearings held in Kulan and Merke Regions in May 2009, and findings we submitted to Jambil MR Department, the ADB regional representative and to media of Taraz City, Jambil Province.

From September of the current year we proceeded with the monitoring process before public hearings to discuss EIA and EMP in relation to motor road section 310-404 km (tranche 2) in T. Riskul Merke Regions and studied the site from 1004-1123 km of motor road “Termez-Almaty”. Objectives of our studies were availability of EIA and EMP documents to dwellers of settlements within the mentioned designed road section and explanations to dwellers of their rights to impact the Project to mitigate its negative exposure.

We note that the information on EIA and EMP documents related to the said designed road section was provided to local communities well behind time as 8 months elapsed from first hearings on 13 January. Participants of hearings in Kulan and Merke were not prepared to discussions nor conceived importance of that event, and actually could not voice their proposals; moreover insist on any changes to EIA and EMP documents.

Development of cattle-driving areas and passage of agricultural machinery were more understandable topics for them. However, also here not everything was clear. On 13.01.2009, during public hearings in Kulan settlements dwellers raised a point of a number of cattle-driving areas in Janaturmis and Jaksilik auls. Initially it was suggested to install 4 cattle-driving areas. But dwellers asked to increase this number by minimum 2. During public hearings they were assured that proposals would be taken into account. But during hearings on 24.09.2009, on maps 3 cattle-driving routes instead of 4 were shown, and hearings participants were not satisfied with
their location. Thus, the ADB procedural requirements to construction of passages for animals based on local consultations with due regard to sufficient and comfortable locations, i.e. notes of dwellers from Janaturmis and Jaksilik auls in T. Riskul Region had been ignored.

Further we, the task group under Jambil Province NGO Coalition for project civil monitoring consider that executors at the local level (representatives of departments and local executive authorities) failed to create maximum conditions to implement the ADB Information Disclosure Policy, in particular with respect to EIA and EMP.

As at 23.09.2009, no one organization, including country districts, country libraries, region akimat, region justice department and region library had EIA and EMP documents, i.e. free access to study and analysis by the local community was not ensured. Also there was no access to RK Ministry of Transport and Communications web site in the region library for familiarization with those documents. Local executive authorities, region akimat and country districts due to absence of these project documents are not a source of information for the local population and are not able to give project consultations satisfying the dwellers.

In connection with this we note that the Disclosure Policy provided by the ADB procedures for EIA and EMP was violated. Due to poor awareness of related population groups (the result of which is imperceptions of the discussion process importance) the participation of local communities in control over the EMP implementation during the road construction and its operation appears to become problematical.

We, the monitoring group approached with the remarks mentioned above the ADB Resident Mission in Kazakhstan in Astana and Motor Road Committee under the RK Ministry of Transport and Communications, but received no response from them. We also sent requests in relation to action plans included in the EMP for T. Riskul Region of Jambil Province to Ecology Department, Forestry and Hunting Territorial Inspection, Department under Sanitary and Epidemiology Control State Committee from which we received formal replies. Our proposal on the monitoring group representatives’ participation in signing of contracts with civil engineering contractors in order to introduce our propositions and comments to Technical Specification of contracts was ignored.

Since our addresses remained unattended we apply to the Office of the Special Project Facilitator (OSPF) because the Office is responsible for the Consultation Phase and dialogue with all parties concerned in order to achieve a satisfactory solution.

Being an authorized person of dwellers from Janaturmis Settlement in T. Riskul Region of Jambil Province I send the Complaint as attachment and ask to scrutinize it.

Sincerely yours,

Members of the monitoring group:
Svetlana Koshelekova
Baurjan Isaliyev
20 September 2009

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Asian Development Bank  
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Dear Special Project Facilitator,

We, the dwellers of Janaturmis Settlement in T. Riskul Region of Jambil Province Abdirahman Murat Kuanishevich, Satilganov Onalbek Alimkulovich and our authorized representative Svetlana Koshelekova (addresses are given below) live in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Herewith we lodge a complaint with the Special Project Facilitator.

1. At present, we face problems associated with the ADB-assisted project “West Europe – West China” Transport Corridor at section 3 in Jambil Province, 1004-1123 km of motor road “Termez-Almaty”.

2. Direct damage caused to us is as follows:

   In designing of the road within Janaturmis Settlement, 1109-1111 km the dwellers in March 2009 brought up an issue related to construction of two cattle-driving areas and one bridge for agricultural machinery passage. Comments and proposals of the dwellers had to be recorded in the minutes. But until now we are not advised whether or not they are taken into account. This is confirmed by a meeting of the dwellers held on 19 September 2009 by the akim Abilov Kairat Mergenovich. When people asked about cattle-driving routes, bridge and road signs the akim answered he was not aware of the information.

3. We would like to have the following results and the application of measures with the help of the Special Project Facilitator, namely:

   a) to arrange for two cattle-driving areas;
   b) to furnish a bridge for agricultural machinery passage;
   c) to install relevant road signs in that places.

4. We have already tried to solve this problem through (illegible) and ADB Operations Department related to this project as follows: through public hearings in March 2009 in Kulan Settlement of T. Riskul Region.

5. We do not request to keep our names confidential.

6. You can contact us at the address:
Jaylau Microdistrict (3), 32, Apt. 22, Taraz City
Tel.: 8 726 22 7 16 7, 8 726 22 34 83 43

Signatures:
Abdirahman M. K.
Satilganov O.A.
Koshelekova S.A.

Addresses:
1. Telebi Str. 27, Turar Riskul Region's Janaturmis Settlement, Jambil Province
2. Telebi Str. 2, Turar Riskul Region's Janaturmis Settlement, Jambil Province
3. Akbozov Str. 26, Taraz City

Telephones:
1. 8 702 934 8992
2. 8 705 569 2152
3. 8 701 758 2770

Baurjan Isaliyev Momynjanuly, South Kazakhstan NGO Coordinator for monitoring of the World Bank-assisted project "West Europe – West China" International Road Transport Corridor Rehabilitation at South Kazakhstan sites" was involved in drafting of this complaint:

Al Farabi Ave. 4, Apt. 4, Shymkent City
Telephone: 8 701 781 17 68
(signature)