

KEY POINTS

- The Midterm Review of Strategy 2020 reaffirms the role of civil society participation in ADB's work, as embodied in its strategic priorities. In pursuit of the MTR, 100% of total approved loans and grants in 2014 indicated CSO participation.
- Sectors where CSOs are active are transport, agriculture and natural resources, education, health, and information and communication technology. The more difficult sectors for CSOs to participate in include finance, industry and trade, energy, and public sector management.

ADB: DEEPENING COOPERATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY IN 2014

NGO and Civil Society Center

Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department
Asian Development Bank

INTRODUCTION

In 2014, the Midterm Review of Strategy 2020 (MTR) took effect with the intention to deepen the engagement of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) with its publics, stakeholders, and civil society. The MTR identified how it will collaborate with a wide range of partners. Greater opportunities for direct engagement of civil society organizations (CSOs) and international organizations on knowledge activities and with ADB projects will be explored, as CSOs become more involved in design and implementation of projects, and in monitoring of ADB's project activities and outputs.

This brief reports on CSO engagements of ADB in 2014, highlighting representative ADB operations and technical assistance (TA) projects approved or ongoing in 2014 that have CSO participation. The aim is to provide a snapshot of how ADB engages with CSOs as the MTR comes on stream. This brief also carries a special section on youth initiatives of ADB, specifically of the NGO and Civil Society Center, in 2014. The youth are an important and increasingly vocal group of civil society, whom ADB has started to actively engage with.

In 2014, 100% of total approved loans and grants had elements of planned CSO participation in their documentation (Table 1). Sectors that are mainstream areas of CSOs operations such as health, education, and agriculture and natural resources tend to have more CSOs participation. More macro areas of operation such as finance, industry and trade, and public sector management tend to have less CSOs participation as they focus more on policy reforms and are more removed from community development (Table 2).

WORKING TOGETHER WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

ADB's engagements with civil society proceed not only according to regional or institutional borders. The "One ADB" approach provides for ADB departments to work together seamlessly, often guided by themes. ADB measures CSO participation by reviewing project documents prepared by staff using the four approaches: information generation and sharing, partnership, consultation, and collaboration.¹

¹ ADB. 2012. *Strengthening Participation for Development Results: An Asian Development Bank Guide to Participation*. Manila.

Table 1: Approved ADB Operations, 2014

ADB Operations ^a	Total Approved	With Planned CSO Participation	
		Number	%
Loans	83	83	100
Grants	14	14	100
Stand-alone TA ^b	210	100	48
Total	307	197	64

ADB = Asian Development Bank, ADF = Asian Development Fund, CSO = civil society organization, JFPR = Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction, OCR = ordinary capital resources, TA = technical assistance.

Note: Technical assistance projects normally do not show 100% CSO engagement because TA projects support government agencies rather than local stakeholders and CSOs directly. Moreover, most stand-alone TA projects are used to train organizations and institutions in developing member countries that usually engage consultancy firms or individuals, hence CSO participation is lower. Stand-alone TA also tend to be multiregional and focus on knowledge sharing.

^a ADB operations include all OCR and ADF-funded loans and grants; JFPR-funded grants, some of which are blended with TA; as well as stand-alone TA. All supplementary and additional financing approvals are excluded.

^b Stand-alone TA projects are not blended with loans and/or grants.

Sources: ADB Operations Services and Financial Management Department, ADB Office of Administrative Services, and project information documents from the operational departments.

Following are selected highlights of ADB's extensive engagement with CSOs in 2014.

Information Generation and Sharing

ADB's Public Communications Policy 2011 (PCP) requires that project documents are disclosed in a timely manner to the public and that there is exchange of information. ADB also has focal points based in headquarters and resident mission offices to help support cooperation with civil society. Both the Department of External Relations and the NGO and Civil Society Center (NGOC) of ADB ensure the PCP's implementation by actively supporting civil society and the public to make them more informed about ADB's operations.

One of the key engagements of ADB with civil society is through the Civil Society Program that is held during the ADB Annual Meeting. The Civil Society Program includes a civil society panel, social media activities, and the Asian Youth Forum (AYF). The AYF marks ADB's increased focus on youth participation in ADB programs and projects to support youth development in the region. In 2014, the NGOC conducted outreach missions for CSOs to give an overview of ADB's upcoming Annual Meeting. In this outreach, ADB gave a briefing on CSO accreditation and registration, ADB's approaches to strengthening partnership with CSOs, and CSO participation in the Civil Society Program.

2014 marked the second year that the ADB Business Opportunity fair included CSOs in the mix of stakeholders who came to Manila to learn about accessing opportunities to work with ADB-financed projects. Special dialogue sessions between CSOs and ADB's procurement and operations staff were held in addition to the mainstream agenda.

Information dissemination targeted to CSOs remained a primary activity in 2014. Most prominent of this were the outreach missions to disseminate the ADB Accountability Mechanism, which marked its 10th year of implementation in 2014.² The Accountability Mechanism is meant to avert possible faults in the design and implementation of projects. The outreach events provided CSOs detailed information about the Accountability Mechanism and built their confidence in raising issues through project and ADB grievance redress channels to resolve problems and improve project design, implementation, and outcomes. Some of these outreach missions were training workshops that were initiated and funded by NGOs themselves.

Information sharing at the country level included Nepal Resident Mission's public and stakeholders outreach programs to disseminate the MTR. ADB also conducted briefings on the ADB Anticorruption Policy in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea to strengthen stakeholders' skills in identifying and responding to integrity violations during project implementation, and to encourage enhanced due diligence.

Consultations

One of the three agendas in Strategy 2020, regional cooperation and integration (RCI)—the other two being inclusive economic growth and environmentally sustainable growth—was integrated with civil society engagement through a strategic planning meeting of the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) held 11–13 February in Davao City, Philippines. Programs under the subregion's 2012–2016 implementation blueprint and the project implementation manual that ADB is helping to prepare, were reviewed by over 200 EAGA stakeholders, including senior officials from each country.

Another activity involving CSOs in pursuing RCI was a final stakeholder consultation meeting hosted by ADB on 9 May in Sydney on the proposed Pacific Business Investment Facility. The Pacific Liaison Office led the discussion on the proposed facility, which will help businesses in the subregion access commercial finance for expansion and diversification.

Meanwhile, during the final Regional Consultation Meeting on Strengthening Planning Capacity for Low-Carbon Growth in Developing Asia held 5–6 November, stakeholders from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam discussed the TA on strengthening planning capacity for low-carbon growth in

² These events were either announced in ADB's online newsletter, ADBToday; or are available from the ADB website at <http://www.adb.org>

Table 2: Approved Operations by Regional Department and Sector, 2014

	Total Approved	With Planned CSO Participation	
		Number	% ⁴
ADB Operational Department^a			
Central and West Asia	53	36	68
East Asia	60	35	58
The Pacific	20	14	70
South Asia	56	38	68
Southeast Asia	77	52	68
Multiregion ^b	41	22	54
Total	307	197	64
Sector^c			
Public Sector Management	51	31	61
Transport	48	37	77
Energy	44	24	55
Agriculture and Natural Resources	44	32	73
Finance	33	16	48
Water Supply and Other Municipal Infrastructure and Services	31	20	65
Education	24	17	71
Industry and Trade	21	12	57
Multisector	5	3	60
Health	5	4	80
Information and Communication Technology	1	1	100
Total	307	197	64

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^a ADB operations include all OCR and ADF-funded loans and grants; JFPR-funded grants, some of which are blended with TA; as well as stand-alone TA. All supplementary and additional financing approvals are excluded.

^b Multiregion projects encompass more than one designated ADB region, e.g., South Asia and Southeast Asia. In contrast, regionwide projects, which include more than one country within a designated region, e.g., Cambodia, Thailand, and Viet Nam in Southeast Asia, have been grouped with other single country projects under the appropriate region.

^c Data includes primary sector classification of projects.

^d Percentage data is based on total by regional department (or sector) with CSO participation.

Sources: ADB Operations Services and Financial Management Department, ADB Office of Administrative Services, and project information documents from the operational departments.

developing Asia. They discussed modelling results from regional and national modeling, and economic implications of low-carbon policy options.

In TA 8289, ADB worked with civil society in developing a consultation and participation plan to help ADB effectively work in conflict-affected areas of Myanmar.³ The project developed the Myanmar Civil Society Brief, stakeholder analyses of key sectors and geographical regions of ADB's focus in Myanmar, and a comprehensive consultation and participation plan for civil society in ADB-financed operations in Myanmar. The team consulted with more than 200 stakeholders across the country, Canada, and the United States.

Collaborations

The Papua New Guinea: Rural Primary Health Services Delivery Project facilitated the establishment of state and nonstate health partnership committees in each project province to ensure collaboration and coordination in health service delivery.⁴ A community-based procurement method accommodated the participation of NGOs, CSOs, and community-based organizations in implementing local health promotion in the provinces.

RETA 8611 supported a wide range of initiatives in Southeast Asia.⁵ In the Lao PDR, the TA engaged a civil society expert to assist the Lao PDR team on how to engage more effectively with civil society, the documentation of which will form the basis for ADB's collaboration with civil society moving forward. In the Philippines, a learning event brought civil society, private and public sectors, and academia together to find ways of promoting a culture of integrity. In Thailand, an initiative focused on how to use ADB knowledge in promoting good governance and capacity development.

Partnerships

One of the 10 priorities in the MTR is financial resources and partnerships, which ADB will continue to strengthen in order to leverage knowledge, expertise, and funding. An example of a partnership with civil society in 2014 was cooperation between ADB and Plan International to work together toward more inclusion of youth in policy and projects. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's provision of cofinancing of \$3.5 million to reduce the incidence of malaria and other communicable diseases in the Greater Mekong Subregion, and to support the Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance secretariat, is another form of partnership.

ADB also presented to stakeholders social protection indexes it is developing for 41 countries in partnership with the International Labour Organisation, Japan International Cooperation Agency, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development,

³ ADB. 2012. *Myanmar: Strengthening Civil Society Participation in ADB-Financed Operations*. Manila.

⁴ ADB. 2011. *Papua New Guinea: Rural Primary Health Services Delivery Project*. Manila (Loan 2785/G0259).

⁵ ADB. 2014. *Support for ADB-Civil Society-Developing Member Country in Southeast Asia Cooperation*. Manila (RETA 8611).

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and the World Bank. ADB assisted in the preparation of a credit union policy for Solomon Islands through the Private Sector Development Initiative, wherein civil society was consulted.

Civil Society Feedback on ADB Operations

The Office of the Compliance Review Panel (OCRP) is an independent body that investigates ADB's alleged noncompliance with its operational policies and procedures. Complaints lodged by CSOs on behalf of projected-affected persons are addressed by OCRP. OCRP monitors remedial actions in which CSOs assist by organizing meetings with the affected persons and other relevant NGOs, and by acting as go-between in sharing information between the affected persons and the OCRP.

The Office of the Special Project Facilitator and OCRP has identified bottlenecks and opportunities in engaging with CSOs. Some of the bottlenecks that can be overcome by counter measures include language barriers and lack of representation of project-affected people by CSOs. Political context is important to how CSOs participate in complaint handling and problem solving. Trust between government and civil society is important to address in order to strengthen cooperation between the two parties.

HIGHLIGHTS OF REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY IN 2014

ADB is arranged into geographical departments and nonlending departments that oversee other aspects of ADB's work.⁶ This section features ADB operations approved in, ongoing, or completed in 2014, to give insight on how CSOs are involved in ADB operations and other operations.

Central and West Asia

ADB organized a stakeholder consultation workshop on 1 October in Baku, Azerbaijan to discuss the country's water resources sector strategy. On 8 December, the Central and West Asia Department presented to CSOs and government officials the "3E strategy" (economy, environment, and equity) of ADB's Urban Operational Plan, 2012–2020 covering infrastructure investments in the urban sector in Georgia.

In 2014, an ADB project sought to provide low-income individuals and microenterprises outside Baku improved access to a wider

range of financial services.⁷ What is unique in this financial inclusion strategy is that the stakeholders, specifically NGOs, proposed the action plan related to microfinance regulation and supervision for consideration and approval by the Central Bank of Azerbaijan and the government. Based on the strategy and the implementation plan developed by stakeholders, staff in the Central Bank of Azerbaijan will undergo further training to upgrade their capacity to regulate and supervise microfinance sector operations, institutions, development, and deepen their service provision.

East Asia

An ADB project in the People's Republic of China is providing urban roads and municipal services to promote people-centered urban transport; introduce integrated solid waste management based on the reduce, reuse, recycle principle that includes composting solutions; and improve water supply services, emphasizing water conservation, water supply safety, and energy efficiency.⁸ The project is designed in close consultation with the main stakeholders—an urban investment and construction company, design institutes, indigenous people and poverty bureaus, adversely affected people, and project beneficiaries.

More than 900 participants were consulted during the project preparatory technical assistance. Surveys of 500 urban and rural households, 18 consultation meetings with government agencies, 6 community focus group discussions, and 6 key informant interviews (case studies) were conducted. The opinions and suggestions of participants were reflected in the project design, the poverty and social assessment, SAP, and gender action plan.

Meanwhile, about 2,700 people were consulted during preparation of the resettlement and environmental monitoring plans. Specific consultations were undertaken to introduce the community-based solid waste management program in selected communities, representing 20% of the two cities' population.

In Mongolia, the Ulaanbaatar Urban Planning Improvement TA is engaging nongovernment stakeholders, private sector, and communities in the planning process through participatory planning methods as the country transitions to a market-led economy.

Pacific Department

ADB held a Training on Consultation for key government and civil society representatives in Timor-Leste on 13–14 November. The training was designed to help strengthen Timor-Leste's safeguard system on environment, involuntary resettlement, and

⁶ The Central and West Asia Department covers operations in Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The East Asia Department covers the People's Republic of China and Mongolia. The Pacific Department covers the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. The South Asia Department covers Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. Finally, the Southeast Asia Department covers Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

⁷ ADB. 2013. *Republic of Azerbaijan: Microfinance Sector Development*. Manila (TA 8621, cofinanced by the Government of Luxembourg).

⁸ ADB. 2013. *People's Republic of China: Jilin Urban Development Project*. Manila (46048-002).

indigenous peoples. Also in 2014, two NGOs in Timor-Leste, Haroman Timor Foun and Haburas Ita Moris, implemented a 12-month water and sanitation behavior change program focused particularly on schools in Manatuto and Pante Makassar district towns.⁹ The NGOs undertook a comprehensive baseline survey on the water sanitation and hygiene situation in both towns and established community water and sanitation groups.

Through the Port Vila Urban Development Project, two NGOs, World Vision and Smol Bag, were engaged to build community awareness on hygiene and deliver hygiene education programs to informal settlements in Vanuatu's Port Vila area.¹⁰ Smol Bag produced a stage play highlighting the links between hygiene and waterborne disease, and there is now a suggestion to televise the play.

ADB's Pacific Liaison and Coordination Office worked with local NGOs and civil society in the TA, Private Sector Development Initiative Phase III.¹¹ The CSO West 'Are' Are Rokotanikeni Association, an established NGO in South West Malaita, assisted the project team in identifying and training women who can engage in a solar panel maintenance and repair business.

South Asia

In Bangladesh, NGOs were engaged to reduce flood and riverbank erosion risks in main rivers.¹² Also, a model of service delivery through public-private partnership was carried out through another TA, wherein NGOs helped address deficiencies in government primary health care service delivery in urban areas by conducting poverty surveys to identify the poor and distribute "red cards" for free services.¹³

In India, a multitranchise financing facility targeted the poor and women to improve high-value tourist destinations, provide skill building, conduct value chain analysis, and generate employment in local communities.¹⁴ The project was designed using a participatory approach and includes consultations with the communities along the various destinations. Another multitranchise financing facility aims to provide improved drainage and water supply facilities for underserved populations and socially excluded communities, including women and poor households.¹⁵ The loan has a strong focus on community-led behavioral change. Intensive community consultation was scheduled during the project final design and implementation. A stakeholder communication strategy, gender action plan, and consultation and participation plan were prepared

to ensure the participation of the community (including women) in program planning and implementation.

In Nepal, a grievance redress mechanism was established to receive, evaluate, and facilitate the resolution of affected persons' concerns, complaints, and grievances related to social and environmental issues under the Third Small Town Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Project.¹⁶ Public consultations were conducted to ensure the participation of a fair representation of stakeholders.

Southeast Asia

In 2014, the Cambodia Resident Mission prepared its new country partnership strategy, 2014–2018. During preparations, a local civil society representative was engaged as a peer reviewer to assist in designing and facilitating consultations with civil society on different sectors of the strategy.

In the Philippines, the pilot implementation of the Conditional Cash Transfer Program for Indigenous Peoples was partnered in by NGOs, CSOs, and faith-based organizations that constructed early childhood care and development facilities in the geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas of indigenous cultural communities.¹⁷ ADB also cofinanced the National Community-Driven Development Program, which is the Philippine government's flagship program to help implement the Philippine Development Plan, 2011–2016.¹⁸ Experts and NGOs identified cases where indigenous groups have been bypassed or marginalized in the subproject planning and selection process.

In Thailand, CSOs with expertise in community-related support activities partnered with government national water and flood management committees on (i) a flood risk awareness program and flood drills; (ii) community-based flood risk management training and workshops, including disaster preparedness, emergency response, and postdisaster rehabilitation, using updated flood hazard mapping prepared under the project; and (iii) planning, designing, and implementing small-scale civil works.

Additional Engagement

In 2014, one of ADB's longest-running health sector projects drew to a close, when the Cooperation Fund for Fighting HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific wrapped up after running for 9 years and

⁹ ADB. 2013. *District Capitals Water Supply Program in Timor-Leste*. Manila (Grant 0258).

¹⁰ ADB. 2011. *Loan to Vanuatu for Port Vila Urban Development Project*. Manila (42391-012).

¹¹ ADB. 2013. *Technical Assistance for the Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative Phase III*. Manila (TA 8378-REG, approved on 6 June 2014, cofinanced by the Government of Australia and the Government of New Zealand).

¹² ADB. 2014. *Bangladesh: Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program – Project 1*. Manila (L3138/G0396).

¹³ ADB. 2014. *Technical Assistance Completion Report: Supporting the Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project*. Manila (TA 8118).

¹⁴ ADB. 2014. *India: Infrastructure Development Investment Program for Tourism – Tranche 3*. Manila (L3223).

¹⁵ ADB. 2012. *Jammu and Kashmir Urban Sector Development Investment Program Project 3*. Manila (L3132).

¹⁶ ADB. 2014. *Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors: Proposed Loan and Administration of Loan and Grant for Third Small Towns Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Nepal*. Manila (L3157).

¹⁷ ADB. 2014. *Philippines: Capacity Development for Social Protection*. Manila.

¹⁸ ADB. 2014. *Philippines: Community-Driven Development Support Project*. Manila.

financing 18 projects and subprojects, many of those implemented in close collaboration with CSOs.¹⁹ The Cooperation Fund made possible partnerships with community-based organizations and NGOs, as exemplified in RETA 6321 (Subproject 10): NGO Initiatives to Prevent HIV/AIDS, which financed NGO-led small- and medium-scale initiatives to prevent and/or treat HIV/AIDS in 10 countries.²⁰

A TA in Southeast Asia aims to support innovative pilot subprojects on strengthening community disaster resilience, and facilitate peer-to-peer learning among local governments and community-based organizations on disaster resilience.²¹ Five subprojects have been selected for support, out of which four will be implemented by CSOs.

The Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department together with NGOC conducted the Annual Workshop on Engaging Civil Society Organizations and NGOs in ADB Operations, which gathered focal persons in Asia and the Pacific. ADB staff shared good practices on civil society participation in ADB projects, and discussed and proposed ways for ADB to strengthen consultations with CSOs at the program and project levels.

Along with the CSO Anchor Network, NGOC also provided extensive support in 2014 to ensure participation of CSOs in grants and loans. This includes training on and implementation of policies such as the 2011 Public Communications Policy and the 2009 Safeguard Policy Statement, as well as increased emphasis on including CSO participation in the initial poverty and social assessment.

ADB consulted with CSOs on ADB's Approach to Upper-Middle-Income Countries (UMICs). The consultation was organized by the Strategy and Policy Department. Manila-based CSOs provided input and feedback to a paper containing proposed directions of ADB's approach to UMICs. In line with the CSOs' feedback, the paper (i) incorporated a strong focus on environment and climate change; (ii) expanded the focus on human resource and skills development; (iii) identified the frontline role for the private sector; (iv) addressed inequality by emphasizing support for inclusive economic growth and investing in poor and lagging areas and regions; (v) emphasized strengthening of governance and institutions in UMICs; and (vi) proposed a systematic approach to the use of country systems that consider account equivalence of country systems with ADB's policies and regulations.

The Strategy and Policy Department also gave presentations on ADB's proposed plan of enhancing its financial capacity for poverty reduction in the region (i.e., combining ADB's Asian Development

Fund and ordinary capital resources) in a series of consultations in Japan, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Multiregional

Coastal communities in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, and Vanuatu applied best practices in ecosystem-based management and climate change adaptation by customizing and adapting natural resource management approaches to local conditions.²² The TA involved the following locally based and international NGOs in the implementation of subprojects.

(i) Local Nongovernment Organizations

- (a) **Papua New Guinea Centre for Locally Managed Areas Inc.** This NGO documented the experiences of Pari Women's Development Association to develop a tool that will enable women to fully participate in decision making in their community, especially in the management of their local marine managed area.
- (b) **Bali Ba Onin.** This NGO based in Timor-Leste was trained by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries on coastal and marine conservation and now conducts "socialization" activities to impart knowledge on the functions and benefits of marine protected areas, as well as the process of establishing them.
- (c) **Roman Luan.** This local NGO conducts educational, environmental, and ecotourism-related programming in Atauro Island, Timor-Leste, to create sustainable, healthy, educated, and active communities while preserving the values of the local culture and natural resources.

(ii) International Nongovernment Organizations

- (a) **WorldFish.** This NGO was engaged for the integrated coastal management subproject in Malaita province in Solomon Islands. It generated 13 regional maps for the Pacific, with each map focusing on different "themes" containing detailed descriptions.
- (b) **Institute of Applied Science, University of South Pacific.** The institute is reviewing nine coastal districts in Ra province in Fiji to develop an effective resource governance structure that would effectively influence the integrated coastal management planning platform.

¹⁹ ADB. 2005. *Fighting HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific*. Manila (RETA 6321, financed by the Cooperation Fund for Fighting HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific).

²⁰ ADB. 2005. *Subproject 10: NGO Initiatives to Prevent HIV/AIDS*. Manila (RETA 6321, financed by the Cooperation Fund for Fighting HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific).

²¹ ADB. 2014. *Support to Community-Based Disaster Risk Management in Southeast Asia*. Manila (8570-REG, financed by the Integrated Disaster Risk Management Fund).

²² ADB. 2010. *Strengthening Coastal and Marine Resources Management in the Coral Triangle of the Pacific (Phase 2)*. Manila (TA 7753, financed by the Technical Assistance Special Fund and Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund).

- (c) **Wildlife Conservation Society.** Alongside its ongoing activity on climate change adaptation focused on addressing food security issues by promoting improved agriculture techniques, the society is building awareness on addressing land-based activities in Manus province, Papua New Guinea.
- (d) **The Nature Conservancy.** This NGO is undertaking a ridges-to-reefs integrated coastal management system in Isabel province in Solomon Islands.
- (e) **Nimmo Bell.** This NGO is developing the Environment Climate Change Trust Fund.

Youth as an Invigorating Force in Civil Society Participation

The ADB Youth Initiative

The Asian Development Bank's (ADB) engagement with young people covers four broad areas: (i) developing the skills of the youth, (ii) engaging youth in development, (iii) environment, and (iv) health. These have been identified based on the most pressing concerns of the youth among sectors that ADB works in.

In 2014, the ADB Youth Initiative organized and supported a number of key events to provide youth a platform for skills building, knowledge sharing, networking, and intergenerational dialogue.

■ Developing the Skills of the Youth

Bearcats Career Experience

Students from the International School Manila, collectively called the Bearcats after their mascot, spent 6 weeks in ADB under the guidance of NGOC to learn how youth can influence and contribute to sustainable development, and design their own activities to support development.

During their placement in ADB, the students had the opportunity to visit the Joneg Foundation Inc., which aims to uplift the standards of living of less fortunate families through livelihood programs such as creating products out of water lily, and modern farming and gardening activities. The Bearcats were invited to create a strategic plan and rapid market study, which they later presented at the Dream Expo Manila, an event that was held in June at ADB headquarters.

The Bearcats also provided assistance in updating NGOC's management information systems and databases. To cap off their placement, they collected books for the library in the Philippine General Hospital's pediatric oncology ward, and conducted art workshops for the children.

2014 International Skills Development Forum

From 10–11 December, ADB hosted the fourth International Skills Development Forum, a dialogue platform on skills development in the Asia and Pacific region. In support of the theme, "Skills Development in Asia and Pacific—Planting Seeds One Step Ahead," the ADB Youth Initiative partnered with Plan International in mobilizing 15 youth leaders as observers and social media reporters and in organizing the session "Green Skills and Green Jobs for Youth", which featured panel discussions and a debate among top youth debaters in Asia.

■ Engaging Youth in Development

2nd Asian Youth Forum

The Asian Youth Forum (AYF) has been held during the ADB Annual Meeting since 2012. The AYF marks ADB's increased focus on youth participation in ADB programs and projects to support youth development in the region. The 2nd AYF was held 30 April–1 May 2014, a few days before the 47th Annual Meeting of the ADB Board of Governors in Astana, Kazakhstan. Some 50 youth leaders from over 10 countries gathered for the AYF, which

had the theme "Partnerships Beyond Borders." Experts gave talks on water security, education and skills development, governance, environmental protection, and gender and inclusion. Participants honed their skills in advocacy and social media, resource mobilization, and debating skills. They also worked on the existing road maps that ADB Youth Partners previously worked on.

47th Annual Meeting of the ADB Board of Governors

The AYF participants played an active role in the ADB Annual Meeting's Civil Society Program, held on 2–5 May 2014. In addition to attending the panel discussions, the youth were social media reporters, tweeting and posting thoughts and quotes about the sessions; and reactors, asking questions and/or sharing relevant experiences and information about the topic. Youth debates were held every day, with debating teams from Central Asia arguing on topics regarding labor, environment, and governance.

United Nations International Youth Day Summit

In celebration of International Youth Day, ADB, in partnership with AIESEC, the global youth network, organized the 2014 International Youth Day Summit with the theme, "Empowering Youth to Achieve Great Expectations." The summit aimed to recognize the value that the youth bring to development, and was headlined by the launch of ADB's Great Expectations video series, a multimedia showcase that presents the challenges that ADB developing member countries are facing through the perspective of the young. Twenty youth participants were asked to rank the Sustainable Development Goals according to priority.

ADB's Vice-President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development Bindu Lohani; Department of External Relations Principal Director, Satinder Bindra; CNN Hero of the Year for 2009, Efen Peñaflorida; and 2012 International Children's Peace Prize Laureate, Kesz Valdez were among the speakers.

During the event, the official hashtag #IYDS2014 trended for 4 hours in the Philippines, reaching Top 3 at the highest.

Greater Mekong Subregion Youth Caravan and Youth Forum

On 19–20 December 2014, 36 youth leaders represented their respective countries at the 2nd Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Youth Forum in Bangkok, Thailand. The GMS forum was part of the GMS Summit, which happens only every 5 years. The first GMS Youth Forum was held in 2008 in Vientiane.

The 2nd GMS Youth Forum had the theme, "GMS Youth: Connected and Contributing to a Dynamic Community." The 2-day event was filled with working sessions, social events, a photography exhibit called "What the Mekong Means To Me," and a chance to finalize the GMS Youth Message addressed to their leaders. To build momentum leading to the forum, two important events were held

Continued

earlier: national youth consultations and the GMS Youth Caravan. The national youth consultations took place in all GMS countries from August to October 2014 to stimulate discussions about the theme, solicit ideas and opinions from youth across the countries on key issues in the GMS, and consolidate these thoughts for a youth message that will be finalized during the 2nd GMS Youth Forum.

Meanwhile, the GMS Youth Caravan started in Jinghong, People's Republic of China and culminated in Bangkok, Thailand. In each stop, the participants listened to resource speakers, visited cultural heritage sites, and learned about each GMS country's challenges and achievements.

■ Environment

No Impact Week Youth Dialogue

As part of ADB's 2nd No Impact Week, the ADB Youth Initiative discussed the theme, "Changing Perspectives, Changing Behaviors", where a youth panel of three speakers presented how their respective communities challenged perspectives and inspired action to make lifestyle changes on water behaviors.

Great ASEAN Eco-Debates

The Great ASEAN Eco-Debates was held in Silliman University, Dumaguete City, Philippines on 7–10 April 2014. The project, organized by alumni of the United States Embassy youth programs, was an inter-ASEAN collegiate Asian parliamentary debate competition that focused on pressing environmental issues and solutions. It was supported by a grant from the US State Department, ADB, and the United Nations Environment Programme.

The Great ASEAN Eco-Debates offered a unique twist to the usual international parliamentary debate tournaments, as it brought the debaters to the world-renowned marine park called Apo Island for a snorkeling activity and interaction with the local community. Debaters also listened to talks on environmental sustainability before and between rounds. The ADB Youth Initiative's Chris Morris and Anna Oposa were invited as speakers, and delivered presentations on their work on water projects and marine protection, respectively.

The Grand ASEAN Eco-Debates was also a milestone for the ADB Youth Initiative because the debaters drafted the Environmental Roadmap.

■ Health

3rd Asian Sanitation Dialogue

ADB invited 12 youth to be active participants and social media reporters during the 3rd Asian Sanitation Dialogue: Making Sanitation a Sustainable Business held 27–29 May 2014. The closing plenary session featured a youth message from Harvey Liwanag, a young doctor and researcher on health and sanitation. A "Global Shaper" of the World Economic Forum, he highlighted that while young people are vulnerable to the negative impacts of poor sanitation, youth can also act as catalysts in leading communities and families through innovative initiatives and activities.

Singapore International Water Week 2014

The Young Water Leaders Summit was held on 31 May and 1 June at the Marina Barrage, Singapore to start Singapore International Water Week. It brought together water leaders of the future from all parts of the world, and sought to influence, equip, and transform them to become effective catalysts of continuous change in their home region and in the wider, water world. The summit was a platform for interactive dialogues in pressing water issues, as well as networking among young professionals, industry leaders, and other water practitioners.

The ADB Youth Initiative organized the workshop "Sanitation for All: Empowering Youth to Improve Sanitation in Asia" and a social media campaign *101 Ways to be a #Waterchamp* was launched where the participants were asked to post their commitment to be a #Waterchamp. The activities were live-tweeted.

At the end of the summit, the Asia Pacific Water Forum accepted the ADB Youth Initiative's lead role in the proposed Rural Water and Sanitation session group for the regional process of the 7th World Water Forum (sanitation session) to be held in 2015.

About the Asian Development Bank

ADB's vision is an Asia and Pacific region free of poverty. Its mission is to help its developing member countries reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of their people. Despite the region's many successes, it remains home to the majority of the world's poor. ADB is committed to reducing poverty through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration.

Based in Manila, ADB is owned by 67 members, including 48 from the region. Its main instruments for helping its developing member countries are policy dialogue, loans, equity investments, guarantees, grants, and technical assistance.

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