ADB Affirms Continued Support to Sri Lanka

ADB President Haruhiko Kuroda visited ADB-assisted reconstruction projects in the conflict-affected northern region of Sri Lanka in May. At a press conference, Mr. Kuroda stated that ADB will continue to provide assistance to Sri Lanka as the country seeks to rebuild its economy after almost three decades of internal conflict.

The President, in his 3-day visit, attended the launch of the Dry Zone Urban Water and Sanitation Project in Mannar and the Kilinochchi-Jaffna power transmission line. He also visited the Mannar General Hospital, Kilinochchi Hospital, and the Southern Transport Development Project—Sri Lanka’s first expressway—and the Colombo port expansion project.

The latest ADB assistance to Sri Lanka includes $90 million in loans approved in December 2010 to help the country restore water supply and sanitation infrastructure in the conflict-affected Northern Province. ADB will also provide a $600,000 grant for technical assistance. ADB’s Board of Directors approved these loans and technical assistance for the Jaffna and Kilinochchi Water Supply and Sanitation Project. ADB’s total lending to Sri Lanka amounted to more than $457 million in 2010. This also included an emergency assistance of $150 million for the Conflict Affected Region Emergency Project. Disbursements in ADB’s ongoing projects in Sri Lanka also reached a record in 2010, surpassing $300 million.

Strategy to Deal with Climate Change Impacts in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka’s Ministry of Environment, with assistance from ADB, unveiled a draft National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy to help the nation meet and overcome the challenges of climate change. The draft strategy proposes action and investments to help Sri Lanka buffer climate impacts in sectors such as agriculture, tourism, housing, and health. The strategy—based on discussions with state agencies, research institutes, nongovernment organizations, and private companies—advocates an integrated approach.

The strategy outlines five strategic thrusts: (i) mainstream climate change concerns into national planning and development, (ii) improve climate resilient and healthy human settlements, (iii) minimize...
UPPUVELI, TRINCOMALEE – Selvi has been selling snacks for 3 years. She sells traditional savory food such as vadai and murukku. Her mobile cart faces the Trincomalee Pulnoddai road, close to a bus halt. As people await their buses, they munch on tasty tidbits they bought from Selvi.

Selvi is married to a baker, and has three daughters. The improved road means better times for many—like her. With the end of the war, reconstruction and rehabilitation work in the area also means many construction workers will be around to buy food from her. People commute much more in this area due to better roads.

Forty-nine-year-old Philomena is among a group awaiting a bus. She came from Kuchchaveli, a coastal town in north-west of Trincomalee, to do some grocery shopping. Earlier, her 25-kilometer journey took an unbelievable four hours by public transport. Bad roads and multiple security check points added to her woes. “But now with the new road, it takes less than 2 hours,” says Philomena with a smile.

Trincomalee was affected by both the conflict and the tsunami. The 55 km of roads were rehabilitated under the Conflict Affected Area Rehabilitation Project and Tsunami Affected Area Reconstruction Project, funded by ADB.

ADB Vice-President Xiaoyu Zhao visited Sri Lanka on 19–21 August. He held discussions with the government and visited ADB-funded projects, especially in the north of Sri Lanka.

Mr. Zhao reviewed ADB support for the reconstruction and development of post conflict Sri Lanka and other ADB development programs. He met with Sri Lanka’s President Mahinda Rajapaksa and other key government officials. He joined Sri Lanks’s President in a foundation stone laying ceremony for the new Highways Secretariat Building in Colombo.

Mr. Zhao also met some internally displaced persons (IDPs) now resettled in Kilinochchi, north of Sri Lanka. ADB has an ongoing assistance for the country’s infrastructure development, and support to the rehabilitation of the internally displaced due to civil war which ended in May 2009.
ADB in July launched its publication *Designing and Implementing Grievance Redress Mechanisms for Road Sector Projects in Sri Lanka*.

The publication, which is available in three languages—English, Sinhala, and Tamil—presents a set of guidelines for designing and implementing grievance redress mechanisms that can address a variety of challenging situations arising from road projects. It describes the characteristics of good grievance redress mechanisms, provides tips for their design, and explains the implementation steps to be followed. The guide has evolved through experiences accumulated in the Southern Transport Project in Sri Lanka.

### Roundtable Discussion on Rubber and IT Sector Industry Clusters

Kyeongae Choe of ADB South Asia Department on 1 July led a panel discussion with private sector representatives of ICT and rubber industries in Colombo on their business plans to increase jobs and boost local economic development. Members of relevant line ministries participated under the ADB-assisted City Cluster Economic Development - Phase II, which takes the public-private partnership approach and private sector development.

A 2-day consultation workshop with ADB’s implementing partner-nongovernment organizations (IP-NGOs) was held in September by ADB-SLRM and South Asia Department Office of the Director General (SAOD). More than 45 representatives from three ADB-funded projects participated: North East Community Restoration and Development Project (NECORD), North East Coastal Community Development Project (NECCDEP), and Secondary Towns and Rural Community Based Water Supply and Sanitation Project (STRCBWSS). Participants included project staff and representatives of selected IP-NGOs. The program was conducted in Sinhala, Tamil, and English languages, garnering active participation from all attendees.

The workshop provided an opportunity for the participants to share and learn from each other on their experiences from loan projects, particularly on gender capacity building and working with NGOs and civil society organizations in project implementation. The workshop was supported by the subproject Enhanced Gender Capacity of Executing and Implementing Agencies, financed by the Government of Australia.

### Business Opportunities Seminar in Vavuniya

ADB’s Sri Lanka Resident Mission and Central Operations Services Office conducted a 2-day business opportunities seminar in Vavuniya in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka, with support of the Northern Provincial Council. Other development partners including World Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency, and USAID made presentations at the seminar. The Institute of Construction, Training and Development and the Chamber of Construction Industry also participated.

Major General G.A. Chandrasiri, Governor of the Northern Province, inaugurated the seminar. ADB-SLRM Country Director Richard Vokes delivered the opening remarks. The seminar was attended by key government representatives as well as contractors, consultants, and suppliers.

The business opportunities seminar aimed to provide participants with information on post-war reconstruction projects undertaken in the region.

### Review of ADB’s Accountability Mechanism

In-country consultations were held on ADB Accountability Mechanism Policy Review for 2010 in September. ADB Additional Executive Director Govinda Bahadur Thapa and external experts Van Putten and Husain joined the event. They visited the sites of the Southern Transport Development Project, along with ADB staff.

The mission met with the project-affected people, project beneficiaries, government project management unit staff, and ADB project officers. These public meetings were used to gain insights on the accessibility, processes, weaknesses, and strengths of ADB’s accountability mechanism, and to reflect these in the updated policy.

A multiple stakeholder workshop was also held on 1 October in Colombo. The workshop included more than 60 participants from the government, nongovernment organizations, civil society organizations, private sector, academia, think tanks, and development agencies. Staff from ADB-SLRM and ADB headquarters also participated in the workshop. ADB-SLRM Country Director Richard Vokes gave the opening remarks.
New SLRM Staff

Jayaratne Perera joined SLRM in November 2010 as project implementation officer for social development and resettlement. He joined ADB after 2 years with Stromme Foundation - Asian Regional Office, a Norwegian funding agency. He also worked with UNDP and other national and international development agencies. He has a B.A. (hons) degree in Sociology, and is currently reading for his M.Phil. in Development Sociology.

Ishrat Chondon joined SLRM in March 2010 as senior finance and administrative assistant. He is a passed finalist of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA UK). Before joining the permanent cadre, he worked for SLRM on a contractual basis. He also worked as cost accountant at Accor Industries (Pvt) Ltd.

Rachitha Gayathrie Ranasinghe joined SLRM in August 2010 as disbursement officer. She joined ADB after 2 years with the UNDP Regional Center and the UNDP Country Office in Colombo. She previously worked with the Reconstruction and Development Agency and has long experience in the private sector. She is a finalist with the Institute of Chartered Accountants, and is currently reading for her Masters in Business Studies with the University of Colombo.

Nelun Gunasekera joined SLRM in April 2010 as social development and gender officer. Prior to this, Nelun was SLRM’s consultant gender specialist for 5 1/2 years. She worked mainly with local and international NGOs, and had a short stint in the private sector in Sri Lanka. Nelun has a B.A. (hons) degree in English, and an M.A. degree in Development Studies from the Institute of Social Studies in the Netherlands.

Navodhini Amarasekera joined SLRM in July 2010 as senior project assistant. She is a passed finalist of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA UK). Currently, she is taking a post graduate degree in Business and Financial Management at the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (ICASL). Before joining the permanent cadre, she worked for SLRM on a contractual basis.

Carina Rasiah joined SLRM in July 2010 as assistant disbursement analyst. She is an accountant and a member of Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA UK) and Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA UK). Prior to joining ADB, she worked for the emergency operation of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations as budget monitoring assistant and at Janashakthi Insurance Plc as finance executive.

ADB-SLRM Moves to New Premises

ADB Sri Lanka Resident Mission (SLRM) on 11 October officially moved to a new office situated in Colombo 7 near the historic Independence Square of Colombo. On 14 October, a special religious observance was conducted by a clergy of Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, and Islam faiths to give blessings to SLRM’s new office.

Strategy to Deal with Climate Change Impacts

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climate change impacts on food security, (iv) improve climate resilience of key economic drivers, and (v) safeguard natural resources and biodiversity from climate change impacts.

When formally adopted by the government, the strategy is expected to stimulate improved environmental management and better preparedness in all sectors to cope with climate change. Currently, climate change considerations are not included in the development and public investment planning of Sri Lanka. This puts at risk investments of more than SLR 4.3 trillion (approximately $38.5 billion) that Sri Lanka has lined up for 2006–2016. The strategy estimates that SLR 47 billion (approximately $428 million) of additional funding is needed, over and above current allocations, between 2011 and 2016, to implement its recommendations.

NEWS FROM Sri Lanka

This newsletter of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Sri Lanka Resident Mission (SLRM) aims to enhance communications between ADB and its client groups. News from Sri Lanka disseminates information on ADB activities and provides a forum on development issues in Sri Lanka. Articles in the newsletter, however, do not necessarily reflect the official ADB view. We welcome readers’ comments and suggestions.

In this publication, $ refers to US dollar.

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