

**Meeting Summary**  
**NGO Forum on ADB and Vice President van der Linden**  
**16.00-17.00, 30 March 2005**

NGO Forum stated that ADB's support to Central Asian countries is undermining EBRD's efforts to promote democracy in the region. The Vice President noted that all countries suffer from problems of corruption, and that EBRD has a different charter than ADB. NGO Forum urged that ADB consider suspending aid to the Melamchi project in Nepal, as it has been shut down by Maoists who take a 10% cut of development assistance. NGO Forum stated that other donors and development banks have ceased disbursements and are not funding new projects in Nepal, and that ADB should therefore follow suit.

Regarding the Southern Transport Development Project (STDP) in Nepal, NGO Forum said that people have been evicted from their homes without compensation, and that ADB has a moral responsibility to assist these people. NGO Forum stated that, in this case, the OSPF did not follow its policy, including with respect to document disclosure. The Vice President replied that what is in the policy should be followed, that the policy was created with good intentions and external input, that experience is still being acquired, and that ADB's Disclosure Policy presumes disclosure.

NGO Forum said that persons should not be suffering in the Melamchi and STDP projects while ADB was learning from its Accountability Mechanism. ADB should move to protect people, it was argued. The Vice President recalled that the Mechanism was still new and that no project had gone all the way through the system. The Vice President agreed to forward documents provided by NGO Forum to the President, and said that the issues raised by NGO Forum should be given serious consideration.

## Participants

### ADB

Vice President Geert van der Linden

Bindu Lohani, RSDD

Noriko Ogawa, VPKM

Bart Édes, NGOC

Sandra Nicoll, NGOC

Suzanne Nazal, NGOC

### NGO Forum on ADB

Withanage, Hemantha	- CEJ - Srilanka
Siwakoti, Gopal Chintan	- NGO Forum
Ul-Alam, Tutu Ashraf	- CDP- Bangladesh
Pasiuk, Oleski	- CEE Bankwatch Net
Singh, Prabin Man	- WAFED- Nepal
Bhatt, Sanjai	- PAIRVI – Delhi , India
Kibria, Zakir	- BANGLAPRAXIS
Jin, Jun	- Green Watershed
Klei, Saw Htoo	- ECDA
Shimizu, Noriko	- FOE – Japan
Simon, Michael	- Oxfam - Australia
Athukorala, Sarath	- U.S.P.A. – Srilanka
Mundy, Heather	- GSS - Srilanka
Lalani, Chandrika	- GSS – Srilanka
Shrestha, Neeru	- WAFED – Nepal
Rosien, Jessica	- NGO Forum
Hasyim, Moh. Zainuri	- YDA – Indonesia
Tanabe, Yuki	- JACSES