

ADB' s Post-Tsunami Assistance

2:45pm – 3:45pm, Room 4734 East

March 30, 2005

| NAME | ORGANIZATION |
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| <p><u>NGO</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Hadad , Nadia2. Dolera, Marnie3. Jabines, Abigail4. Tumiwa, Fabby5. Withanage, Hemantha6. Bhatt, Sanjai <p><u>ADB Staff</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">7. Loxley, B.8. Tamura, Yumiko9. Nicoll, Sandra10. Ahmed, Jaseem | <p>INFID NGO Forum Global Anti-Incinerator Alliance WGBR – Indonesia CEJ – Srilanka PAIRVI – Delhi, India</p> <p>RSDD/RSAD MKRD / MKOC NGOC MKRD</p> |

ADB's Post-Tsunami Assistance

- Mr. William Loxley, Principal Education Specialist, RSDD made an informal presentation on ADB's post-tsunami assistance.
- A copy of the Board briefing paper with information to support the Asian Tsunami Fund was circulated to participants.
- It was highlighted that the first phase of support under the Fund will not include category A projects which involve environment and resettlement issues. This should enable quicker disbursement.
- The first phase of implementation will focus on replacement of core infrastructure.
- It is expected that projects will get underway by May/June 2005.
- There is concern in the international community about how the funds will be tracked – transparent accountability mechanisms will need to be put in place, but ultimately individual governments must take responsibility.
- all sectors should participate in the tsunami assistance efforts – including the private sector and civil society.

Discussion

There was a question raised about the role of the public in decision making concerning the use of Tsunami Fund resources. NGOs were informed that these issues, including consultation and participation of locally affected groups, would be addressed as a normal part of the project design process.

It was further mentioned by ADB that the private sector and civil society should be fully involved in tsunami assistance efforts.

It was noted that in Sri Lanka, the government was proceeding with projects without environmental impact assessments. It was reiterated that all ADB assistance during the first phase will be for category A projects where environmental impacts will not be significant.

There is concern about the use of ADB loan modalities for tsunami assistance efforts – grants are preferable given the significant debt burden affected countries are already shouldering. It was pointed out that ADB's initial assistance package of \$ 600 million, is all grant funding. However, it is acknowledged that future new funding could involve loan financing, as well as grants.

There were several questions raised about the status of ongoing projects in Indonesia and the affect that tsunami will have on these projects. These issues will be referred to relevant staff in SERD (Jaseem Ahmed kindly offered to facilitate the initial contacts).

There was a question about what ADB's waste management policy is under the tsunami relief efforts? ADB responded that it does not have a specific waste management policy per se. The consultants involved in the design of projects involving waste management would consider the alternatives and recommend the most appropriate option.

The NGOs provided ADB with the following documents;

- (i) "Resources up in Flames: The Economic Petfalls of Incineration versus a Zero Waste Approach in the Global South", by Brenda Platt, for Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives/Global Anti-Incinerator Alliance.
- (ii) "Waste Incineration: A Dying Technology", Global Anti-Incinerator Alliance/Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives.

A public statement from the Freedom from Debt Coalition titled "In the face of Debt and Disaster: Long-lasting Relief for the Peoples of the South" was circulated at the session. This statement has been received by the Office of the President and the Office of the DG, RSDD. The NGOs were requesting to know that whether ADB had any response to the statement (see statement attached).

An open letter from the Executive Director of the International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development on "Recommended Standards for Re-Construction of Tsunami-Affected Areas of Indonesia was provided to NGOC. The letter will be formally sent to the Head, NGOC.