

6 September 2006

Mr. Haruhiko Kuroda
President
Asian Development Bank
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Re: Selection process for the position of the SPF

Dear President Kuroda,

We are writing to express our concerns regarding the selection process for members of the ADB's Accountability Mechanism, particularly the current opening for the Special Project Facilitator and the upcoming opening for the regional panel member of the Compliance Review Panel in December 2006. It has come to our attention that applications for the SPF position will be closed on September 6, 2006, without any civil society involvement or circulation of the announcement to interested civil society and NGOs. We are surprised that the filling of this critical position has been treated like a routine job opening at the ADB, and we submit that the unique character and responsibility of the SPF position deserves a more open, transparent and participatory selection process. The credibility of the mechanism depends on it. *We hope you will consider extending the deadline for the SPF position for at least one month to allow time for circulation of the announcement to the public.*

In addition we would like to suggest the following selection process for the Accountability Mechanism positions to be instituted immediately, including for the current SPF position:

- There should be an open and transparent nominations process that invites nominations from civil society and NGOs. Openings in the Accountability Mechanism should be publicly announced and circulated to NGOs and civil society groups through the mechanism itself, the ADB NGO unit, and ADB External Relations. The schedule for the selection process should be made available in advance.
- The C.V.'s of all nominees to the Accountability Mechanism should be kept on a roster that would be publicly available by request or on the ADB's website for review.
- The ADB selection committee(s) for Accountability Mechanism positions should include one civil society representative and the identity of all members on the selection committee should be made public;

These simple steps are not incompatible with the current policy, and could easily be instituted by the ADB to add transparency to the selection process. It is critical that the Accountability Mechanism is staffed with independent professionals who have credibility both inside and outside the Bank. Involving civil society can only increase the opportunity to find the best candidates.

ADB showed strong leadership when it established the Accountability Mechanism and included elements—such as monitoring—that improved upon features of other International Financial

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Institutions' accountability panels. We hope you will continue this leadership by establishing a selection process that is transparent and participatory.

We look forward to receiving your earliest response.

Sincerely,



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Executive Director
Oxfam Australia

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Washington, D.C.

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Prabin Man Singh,
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Cc: ADB Board of Directors
Mr. Augustinus Rumansara, CRP
Mr. Nalin P. Samarasingha, SPF