

## FORUM BRIEFER 01-02

# NO ALOHA TO ADB!

Violeta Q. Perez-Corral, NGO Forum on ADB (April 2001)\*

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Massive protests will welcome delegates of the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Honolulu, Hawaii on May-11 this year. ADBWatch, a broad coalition of people working for economic justice in Hawaii, in close coordination with a global network of activists critical of the Bank and its activities, have organized an 11-day series of *Alternative Events on Globalization and the ADB*, including a protest march and rally on May 9.

The parallel events aim to provide a venue for bringing the voices of the poor in the Asia-Pacific region which concerns have been paid mostly lip service at ADB Meetings. The alternative events will feature representatives from communities which bear the brunt of badly-designed and expensive projects funded by ADB loans to their governments under guise of development and poverty reduction. The various fora will also encourage debate and discussion on alternatives to globalization as in the recent World Social Forum in Puerto Alegre.

At last year's ADB Annual Meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand, more than 1,000 Thai villagers and farmers protested against water usage fees and a wastewater treatment plant being imposed by the ADB in their communities. These protests generated much bad PR for the Bank and had an enormous impact on the institution, prodding ADB President Tadao Chino to review its policy on so-called *Cooperation with NGOs*. Now the pressure continues to expose the Bank's destructive policies and show the world that increasingly larger numbers of citizens vehemently oppose the ADB's intrusion into their communities and their public lives.

Hundreds of people will be staging non-violent protests against the Bank in Honolulu to denounce large-scale dams, water treatment plants, highways and other infrastructure projects. Activists will also speak out against Bank-supported privatization programs which cause massive job losses and hand over public utilities and strategic industries to transnational cartels with nil direct benefit to the poor and impoverishing them further in the long run.

On the *International Day of Action against the ADB* on May 9, groups in Thailand, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Australia and in the Bank's Headquarters in the Philippines have committed to organize massive

actions in solidarity with the Honolulu protesters. More of these well-publicized protests will hurt the ADB where it will hurt most – its 'triple A' credit rating which the Bank takes the most pride in – and eventually, its own pockets.

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### INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (May 9, 2000)

Organize a solidarity protest against the ADB on May 9 to coincide with the opening of the ADB Annual Meeting in Honolulu, May 9

NO ALOHA FOR THE ADB!

JOIN THE GLOBAL MOVEMENT FOR JUSTICE!

EXPOSE THE DESTRUCTIVE POLICIES AND PROJECTS OF THE ADB!

The Asian Development Bank is holding its Annual Meeting in Honolulu, Hawai'i from May 9-11. ADBwatch Hawai'i, a broad coalition of people working for economic justice in Hawai'i, is organizing a series of parallel events from May 4-11, including a protest march and rally on May 9.

At last year's ADB Annual Meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand, 5,000 Thai villagers and farmers protested for 3 days against water usage fees and a water treatment plant being imposed by the ADB. The protests had an enormous impact on the institution. We now need to keep the pressure on! Help to expose ADB's destructive policies and show the world there is No Aloha for the ADB!

**We urge you to organize a solidarity protest in your country against the ADB**

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\* The NGO FORUM ON ADB (FORUM) is a network of diverse non-governmental organizations (NGOs), peoples' organizations (POs), community-based organizations and other public interest groups with advocacy and campaigns relating to the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The Manila-based Secretariat can be reached at: Room 402, 107-A Kalayaan Avenue, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City, Philippines; Telefax: +632 9297987; E-mail: [forum@pacific.net.ph](mailto:forum@pacific.net.ph). Visit our homepage: [www15.brinkster.com/ngoforum](http://www15.brinkster.com/ngoforum).

**on May 9, 2001, the opening day of the ADB Annual Meeting.**

Hundreds of people will be protesting against the Bank in Honolulu. We urge you to magnify their voices by speaking out against the ADB's destructive projects and policies. Denounce dams, water treatment plants, highways and other infrastructure projects. Speak out against privatization of basic services! Already groups in Thailand, the Philippines and Australia are planning to mobilize.

If you are interested in organizing an action on May 9, please let us know. Send your name, group, country and action to [swong@irn.org](mailto:swong@irn.org). We will be issuing a press release and doing other publicity on the International Day of Action Against the ADB. We hope you will also use this as an opportunity for media and public awareness in your own countries.

For more information on the many activities planned for Hawaii, join the listserv - send a message to [adbwatch-international-subscribe@egroups.com](mailto:adbwatch-international-subscribe@egroups.com).

**Show the World that There is NO ALOHA FOR THE ADB!!**

*Endorsed by:*

ADBWatch Hawaii  
Cordillera Peoples' Alliance, Philippines  
DAMAAN Organization/CRBIP-Affectees, Pakistan  
Environmental Foundation Ltd, Sri Lanka  
Forum For Protection of Public Interest (Pro Public),  
Nepal  
Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC), Philippines  
International Rivers Network, USA  
Movement for National Land, Agriculture and Agrarian  
Reform (MONLAR), Sri Lanka  
NGO Forum on the ADB (International Committee)  
Network of 38 Peoples Organizations, Thailand  
Rivers Watch East and SE Asia (RWESA)  
Southeast Asia Rivers Network (SEARIN), Thailand  
SUNGI Development Foundation, Pakistan  
*(as of 2 April 2001)*

## **ALTERNATIVE EVENTS on GLOBALIZATION and the ADB Honolulu, Hawai'i May 4 — 11, 2001**

Friday, May 4 to Sunday May 6

### **The Indigenous People's Forum on Cultural Rights**

Sponsored by KAHEA, an alliance of Native Hawaiian cultural rights practitioners and environmental activists. This forum will feature cultural practitioners and cultural rights activists from Hawaii and from international community exploring strategies to protect culture, land, and natural resources.

Monday, May 7 Evening:

### **A teach-in on Globalization and the ADB**

#### **The International Forum on Globalization**

IFG is a speakers' bureau of world renowned experts on trends of globalization policies on the environment, local government, Indigenous people, jobs, etc. Walden Bello, Anuradha Mittal, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Victor Menotti and Maude Barlow will address how globalization and the ADB impacts Hawai'i, natural resources and Indigenous people. Sponsored by ADBwatch.

Tuesday May 8 Day

### **Panel Discussion with The ADB and NGO's**

Panel discussions in a debate format convening globalization experts, members of affected communities and ADB staff. UH Manoa.

Tuesday, May 8 Evening

### **Voices from the People: Testimonies from people who are being impacted by ADB Projects and economic globalization**

Sponsored by several International advocacy and research organizations and ADBwatch.

**\*\*\*Wednesday, May 9 All Day**

### **MARCH AND RALLY \*\*\***

10:30 am **March for Global Justice** Non-violent March for Hawaiian Rights and Global Justice  
3:30 to 9:00 **Speakers Rally in the Park** Special guest speakers—local & international

Thursday, May 10 Daytime

### **Panels with ADB and NGO's**

Panel discussions in a debate format convening globalization experts, members of affected communities and ADB staff. UH Manoa.

Thursday, May 10 Evening

### **Voices from the People: Testimonies from people who are being impacted by ADB Projects and economic globalization**

Sponsored by several International advocacy and research organizations and ADBwatch.

Friday, May 11 Evening

### **The Role of the Military in Globalization**

A seminar with expert speakers and activists. Sponsored by ADBwatch and AFSC

**Contact ADBwatch for information on:  
affinity groups for the March, non-violent trainings or volunteer  
opportunities**

Telephone/fax: (808) 955-6161, e-mail: [adbwatch@lava.net](mailto:adbwatch@lava.net)

Sign up for informational listserve: [adbwatch-hawaii-subscribe@egroups.com](mailto:adbwatch-hawaii-subscribe@egroups.com)

Website <http://hawaii.indymedia.org/>

Make a tax deductible donation today!: ADBwatch, UH-Manoa, 2465 Campus Road, RIO Box A-4,  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822