

ADB's Footprint in South Asia



By Arturo Nuera

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ADB's FOOTPRINT IN SOUTH ASIA

**ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK'S INVOLVEMENT
IN SOUTH ASIA**

NGO FORUM ON ADB
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ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	-	Asian Development Bank
ADF	-	Asian Development Fund
ADTA	-	Advisory Technical Assistance
BIMP-EAGA	-	Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines - East ASEAN Growth Area
CSP	-	Country Strategy Program
DMCs	-	Developing Member-Countries
DRP	-	Dhivehi Raiyyithunge Party
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
GMS	-	Greater Mekong Sub-region
GNP	-	Gross National Product
HDI	-	Human Development Index
IDP	-	Internally-Displaced Persons
IMF	-	International Monetary Fund
IMT-GT	-	Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle
IRO	-	Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation
JICA	-	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JMJB	-	Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh
JMB	-	Jana'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh
KSE	-	Karachi Stock Exchange
LDCs	-	Least-Developed Countries
LFO	-	Legal Framework Order
LTSF	-	Long-term Strategic Framework
MDB	-	Multi-Development Bank
MDP	-	Maldivian Democratic Party
NGOs	-	Non-Government Organizations
NWFP	-	North-West Frontier Province
PARC	-	Public Administration Reform Commission
PATA	-	Provincially- Administered Tribal Areas
PDPA	-	People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan
PRS	-	Poverty Reduction Strategy
RCSP	-	Regional Cooperation and Strategy Program
RETA	-	Regional Technical Assistance
SAARC	-	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SACEP	-	South Asian Cooperation on Environment Program
SAGQ	-	South Asia Growth Quadrangle
SASEC	-	South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation
SMEs	-	Small and Medium Enterprises
SOE	-	State-Owned Enterprises
TA	-	Technical Assistance
TASF	-	Technical Assistance Special Fund
UK	-	United Kingdom
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Program
UNFPA	-	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	-	United Nations Children's Fund
UXO	-	Unexploded Ordinance
WB	-	World Bank

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SOUTH ASIA has a population of 1,467,255,669 (CIA, July 2005). India itself is home to 1,080,264,388 people. India's natural, ethnic, religious, cultural and political diversity is incomparable to any other countries. While Afghanistan is a remote brother of South Asia, people are least aware about Bhutan. All South Asian countries face civil wars and other internal political and social conflicts. Afghanistan and Pakistan are heavily affected by war against terror.

Most countries were invaded by the British in 17th and 18th centuries. The remnants are still in the political, legal and business systems. The countries in the sub-region are politically very diverse, extremely different from each other. The disparity between the rich and the poor in these countries is big, although quite ironic and conflicting. All countries have been labeled as developing countries.

All these countries are subjected to natural disasters from time to time. The recent Tsunami disaster was a big blow to these disaster-prone countries. Droughts, earthquakes, cyclones, floods are common in the region.

For the last three decades, the heavy presence of the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and Asian Development Bank is contested by the civil society. These global and regional entities have become the "family doctors" of these countries. Sadly, the "diagnoses" and the corresponding "prescriptions" have resulted in heavily-indebted "patients", especially after the introduction of open economic policies. Communities face enormous problems such as displacement, violation of human rights, loss of environmental resources due to the infrastructure projects funded by the World Bank and ADB. Corruption poses a major threat in most of the countries.

Bangladesh is the biggest Borrower of ADB's low-interest-loans-and-grants window. Asian Development Fund (ADF). India is the second biggest Borrower of the Ordinary Capital Resources (OCR), which is the high interest loan window of ADB. Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Nepal also heavily Borrow from ADB.

This guidebook is intended to assist civil society groups. We hope this book will assist the civil society groups and community leaders to understand ADB's involvement in their respective countries and in the region and sharpen their advocacies towards better accountability social justice, and governance.

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