

NGO CONSULTATION FORUM: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES POLICY*
Friday, 11 May 2001, 1:00-3:00
ADB 34TH annual Meeting, Honolulu, Hawaii

How does ADB take care of the class factor?

- ADB is aware of this. Missions should meet with affected peoples.
- In Cambodia Agriculture Sector Projects IP petitioned ADB re: Land Law. ADB brought this to the attention of Government & facilitated dialogue between IP and Government.
- Must understand social structure and social processes – core issue of poverty reduction. Participation processes critical. Must do social analyses.
- ADB intervenes with Government

Can loans be made conditional on following existing national policies on IP?

- Yes. It is important that Government have capacity to do this.

What is status of the new RETA?

- It is in a very early stage, but it is a positive sign that Indonesia agreed to participate in the RETA.

ADB policy dialogue affecting adverse impacts.

- ADB policy requires that IPs be considered in all ADB operations.

The whole community retains indigenous knowledge, so is the whole community involved in ADB initiatives? Privatization leads to loss of this local knowledge and ADB should help combat this.

- At early stage of project identification local people are informed, and traditional knowledge may be identified at that stage.

How is customary law handled?

- ADB carries on dialogue to encourage Government acceptance of customary law

There is no indication where the indigenous peoples are located and affected in ADB projects.

A map of indigenous areas worldwide is available.

NGOs at grassroots levels (remote areas where indigenous peoples live) are usually very weak-- capacity building is needed.

Isolation of social and political impacts is common. What is the level of participation of ADB staff working in this issue in project preparation?

- These issues are a part of project preparation and country programming.

Would indigenous peoples be involved in monitoring and evaluation processes? Are indigenous peoples of higher priority compared to gender in ADB?

- Participation and listening to the voices of the people are important aspects in the initial project processing in ADB.
- International standards on indigenous peoples are clear that the people have the right of informed consent.

Is there anything NGOs can do to help with indigenous peoples, particularly with the limited staff in ADB?

- ADB does assessments, involving consultants. ADB welcomes NGOs to work together on this issue.
- Any materials on intellectual property issues would be useful.

* Forwarded to NGO FORUM ON ADB by Maria Lauren E. Laurito <laurito@adb.org>, Office of Environment and Social Development, Asian Development Bank.

ADB plans to work with indigenous peoples via a website. How about those that have no access to this technology?

- This is more targeted to the government and NGOs, and NGOs are expected to pass on this information to the indigenous peoples. Important to get assistance from NGOs in this effort.

Some indigenous women are already raising gender issues. Tradition is not stagnant.