

Meeting on Chasma Right Bank Irrigation Project (Stage III)

31 March 2005

2:45pm – 3:45pm

Room 6213 North

List of Attendees:

From ADB:

Frederick C. Roche, Director, SAAE

Takashi Matsuo, Principal Project Spec/Head, Project Admin Unit, SAAE

Ma. Adora C. Deguito, Project Implementation Officer, SAAE

Suzanne M. Nazal, Civil Society Cooperation Officer, NGOC

From NGO Forum on ADB (Forum):

Sanjai Bhatt - PAIRVI – Delhi, India

Yuki Tanabe - JACSES

Sameer Dossani - Forum Secretariat

Meeting Summary:

1. The Forum inquired on the action plan for the Chashma Right Bank Irrigation Project (Stage III). ADB replied that the CRP monitors the implementation of the Board decision on the Inspection Request for the project. Shortly after the Board approval on 19 August 2004, ADB drafted an action plan to implement the recommendations and sent it to the Government and the Inspection Requesters. Subsequently, four missions were fielded in October 2004, November 2004, February 2005, and March 2005 to discuss the draft action plan with the government. ADB is currently awaiting acceptance from the government to finalize the action plan. The Inspection Panel recommends loan extension for 5 years, and this extension up to June 2009 was approved by ADB on 29 March 2005.
2. Regarding consultation activities, the Forum expressed concern on whether ADB is in touch with project affected people. ADB clarified that consultation is on-going, both through ADB missions and consultants who continue to talk to the villagers. In addition, consultation on specific action will be carried out in each major action. Last 20 March, all NGOs that signed the complaint organized a people's meeting which was fairly well done. Issues that were raised were basically the same as those in the complaint letter. The consultation will continue until the approval of the action plan and during its implementation.
3. The NGO is interested to know whether ADB will publish reports on implementing remedial measures. ADB explained that the CRP is responsible for reporting. SARD is reporting to the CRP and provides briefing sessions to the Panel.
4. ADB elaborated that the GRSC process involved wide consultation and that the action plan came directly out of this process. Simultaneous interaction is ideal but unfortunately, interaction with the government had taken more time. Currently, ADB is waiting for responses from the two provinces on actions under their responsibility. After signing an agreement with the government, the action plan is expected to commence by end of April 2005. As for public comments on the action plan, SARD is not aware of any comments

received by the CRP on the draft plan that was posted on ADB's website. While it can be noted that Mr. Matsuo's mission in February was an encouraging breakthrough, the project requires persistence from the ADB to move forward.

5. On the lessons learned by ADB on the Chasma Project, ADB acknowledged that the process being undertaken is time consuming. However, the recommendations of the Panel did not depart much from the GRSC views. The first lesson is that ADB can not always be perfect in its compliance to its policies, but needs to act promptly when events emerge that are inconsistent with those policies. ADB highlighted that attention to all aspects of the project is required. Importance should be given to the technical as well as safeguard aspects of any project.