

Meeting Summary
NGO Forum on ADB and Office of External Relations
“India: North East Power Development TA”
10.00-11.00, 31 March 2005

ADB explained that the project preparatory technical assistance comprises two phases. Phase I will produce an energy needs assessment to determine, among other things, whether the North East region of India suffered from a shortage of power or suppressed demand. It is expected to include feasibility assessments for power transmission and distribution system improvements (“grid strengthening”), and very small scale, off-grid (micro) hydro projects in 7 states.

Neither Phase I, nor the follow-on Phase II, would propose medium or large dams (i.e., nothing bigger than 25 MW is anticipated). Transmission facilities being examined would not link large hydro projects under construction or being considered by India. ADB emphasized that there would be stakeholder consultations in the preparation of the study, which is expected to be completed in December. Phase II, should it be carried out, would introduce indicative programming figures.

NGO Forum expressed the concern that the project is being used to justify a greater military presence in the North East states, and asked what safeguards were being taken against this possibility. ADB explained that this issue was beyond the remit of SARD’s Energy Division, and that the project was being undertaken to help the poor people of the concerned states. ADB said that regardless of the broader context, the Bank’s involvement was better for everyone. ADB advised that the concern should be taken up with the Government of India, but NGO Forum replied that its partner in the area has tried unsuccessfully for 30 years to address the issue. NGO Forum indicated that it would take up its concern in other forums.

In line with other ADB projects, India could be expected to contribute about 50% of the project costs, with the Bank taking care of the foreign exchange component.

List of Attendees:

NAME	ORGANIZATION
<u>NGO</u>	
1. Tanabe, Yuki	JACSES
2. Kibria, Zakir	BANGLAPRAXIS
3. Abey, Diya	SAEN
4. Rosien, Jessica	NGO Forum
5. Bhatt, Sanjai	PAIRVI – Delhi, India
6. Dossani, Sameer	NGO Forum

ADB Staff

7. Millison, Dan
8. Edes, Bart
9. Abeygunamadena, P.

SARD (SAEN)
NGOC
SAEN

Participants

ADB

P. Abeygunawardena, SAEN
Dan Millison, SAEN
Bart Édes, NGOC

NGO Forum on ADB

Sanjai Bhatt, PAIRVI, India
Zakir Kibria, Bangkapraxis, Bangladesh
Diya Abey, SAEN
Yuki Tanabe, JACSES, Japan
Jessica Rosein, NGO Forum
Sameer Dossani, NGO Forum