

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
NEPAL RESIDENT MISSION

27 April 2004

Mr. Gopal Siwakoti 'Chintan'
Coordinator, Water and Energy Users' Federation-Nepal (WAFED)
and Convenor, NGO Forum on ADB, Manila, Philippines
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Dear Messrs. Siwakoti, Pandit, Khadka and Bhandari,

We, the donors for the Melamchi Water Supply Project (MWSP) participating in the ongoing Joint Review Mission (JRM), are puzzled by your critical letter of 19 April and Mr. Siwakoti's e-mail of 22 April. We take concerns about the MWSP among civil society very seriously and, as we have been doing at a number of JRMs in the past, we are trying to continue constructive dialogue with all the NGOs/stakeholders which/who have a stake in the MWSP including your NGO. At the beginning of the current JRM, we were advised by the Melamchi Water Supply Development Board (MWSDB) on the scheduled Thursday (22 April) morning NGO/stakeholder forum. We were then advised by MWSDB that the forum would be facilitated by an NGO called Water Power Analysis & Research Center, which was unknown to us. But we did not see anything inappropriate in principle as we are open to dialogue with any NGO/stakeholder, which/who has a stake in MWSP. Please note that we are not in a position to judge the legitimacy or competence of this or any other NGO in attending such a forum.

We regret that you have made in the letter undue criticism about Nordic countries participating in the MWSP regarding their alleged neglect of human rights and environmental issues. We feel such criticism grossly inappropriate and misleading. We all take these issues very seriously and we are ore than happy to listen to what you have to say. But you have to participate in the dialogue first as it is difficult to entertain each and every meeting request from NGOs.

We will try to make our best effort to make as many opportunities as possible to continue constructive dialogue with all the stakeholders, including your NGO, to make MWSP a successful project.

Best regards,

Keiichi Tamaki
Senior Urban Development Specialist/
Mission Leader
ADB

Hakon Hynne
First Secretary
Norwegian Embassy

Jin Wakabayashi
Deputy Director
JBIC