

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

NGO	Forum
on	ADB

Making ADB accountable since 1992

**NGO FORUM
ON ADB**



MISSION

- To stimulate public awareness and action as well as develop closer working ties with Peoples' Organizations (POs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other public interest groups on issues related to the Asian Development Bank
- To develop a cohesive framework and overall strategy in coordination with partner NGOs, Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and Peoples Organizations (POs) for the campaign on the ADB
- To sharpen public debate on and understanding of the Bank's growth-oriented development paradigm and top-down development strategies
- To influence the Bank to adopt poverty reduction-focused and grassroots-based policies for sustainable development
- To critique the development models adopted by the Bank
- To assist and build capacities of CSOs and movements (including local communities) through Forum networks to fight for equitable social and environmental justice, democratic governance, and safeguards in Bank's projects

VISION

- Democratic governance and equitable social, gender and environmental justice enjoyed/flourishing through Asia and the Pacific region
- Enhance the capacities of Civil Society Organizations and movements in the Asia Pacific to amplify their struggles against ADB policies, projects, and programs that threaten people's lives, the environment, and their communities

GOAL

- To make the ADB responsible and accountable for the impacts of its projects and policies



MESSAGE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENER

In 2017 ADB reached its 50th year of the existence in the Asian region. NGO Forum on ADB has been monitoring and engage in advocacy sine 1991 has 26 years engagement with the ADB officials to assist with the local communities, frontline defenders who are struggling to safeguard their territories, environment, natural resources, rights to commons and the communities. The life of those displaced during the past 50 years or the people who lost natural environment and have become indebted due to the structural policies pushed by these neoliberal agencies are not preferable.

Forum plays a critical role to bring the critical voice of the frontline environmental human rights defenders to the discussion table and for changing the aggressive development projects funded by the ADB and its co-founders.

The struggle is not only with ADB any more since the new financial giant AIIB join the race of infrastructure development. Forum also trying to understand how we can save communities from many other aggressive development projects of the countries backed by the Chinese and other private banks.

Decarbonizing Asia is a joint struggle we work with other like-minded organizations initiated years back. This campaign is becoming more and more important due to the human population are reaching planetary limits in related to the greenhouse gases. Fight against the ADB immunity also gained momentum in 2017. It's clear that immunity is a major constraint for the people to achieve justice in ADB funded projects.

The forum is successfully gathering and working with over 250 member groups and hundreds of like-minded people and experts to bring more effective advocacy towards ADB and AIIB.

This is not possible without the support of other financial partners, forum member groups, like-minded groups, and much-dedicated forum staff members. On behalf of the International Committee of the NGO Forum on ADB, I thank them for their commitments and dedication to this work.

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ADB 50 Years Walk of Shame reaches EDSA

2017 was a challenging and busy year for NGO Forum on ADB, primarily because of the challenging the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Immunity Campaign, which was launched weeks prior to the ADB 50 years of operation in Asia.

Given the current political climate and government tensions between nations, the Forum has managed to remain relevant in the ever evolving arena of civil society work and policy advocacies.

The space for CSO discussion has always been insufficient if not outright missing from consultations on policy thus leading to communities being adversely affected by poorly thought out and badly constructed if not weak development plans and policies.

Through persistent efforts, the network has lobbied for and obtained a spot on the table with regards to policy drafting and

consultations both with ADB and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). This has opened a venue for civil society networks to provide their input and criticisms of projects and developments that affect them.

In addition, 2017 is the fruition of the planned Asian People's Call on Challenging ADB's Immunity. Over 200 hundred students from different universities around Metro Manila attended the event, joined by network members from Mongolia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Indonesia, The Netherlands, South Africa, and the Philippines. It was a 3-day event that ended with a mobilization in front of the ADB headquarters in Ortigas, Pasig, Philippines, with over 500 hundred individuals from affected communities and civil society organizations, questioning ADB's immunity.

The call was also brought to Yokohama, Japan during the 50 year anniversary of the ADB.

ASIAN PEOPLE'S CALL ON CHALLENGING ADB'S IMMUNITY

As the 50 year anniversary of the ADB approaches, a network of NGO's and CSO's have launched a campaign challenging the bank's immunity, asking the question is the Bank's immunity worth it?

The CSO's led by NGO Forum on ADB deemed that this is the right moment to question and probe on the unequal legal privilege of IMMUNITY has allowed the ADB, to act with impunity against the environment, human rights, and self-determined development. The rule of law must also apply to a multilateral development bank if there is the need to fulfill the demands of human rights and sustainable development.

Alongside this call is the encouragement of the CSO's for organizations, communities, and individuals to make a difference by giving documents that will serve as proof or evidence to these 50 years of destruction.

Asian People's Call was attended by over 500 hundred students from different universities, together with Forum network members around the globe.

ADB PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS POLICY (PCP) REVIEW

This year the ADB Public Communications Policy (PCP) is still up for review and the Forum network seized the opportunity to submit comments on the flawed PCP consultation process. In addition, the

network also submitted comments on the Staff Instructions on Routinely Disclosed ADB Documents and Information as well as as a letter to the PCP Review Team (29 November 2017).

In addition, some of the key issues that has been raised during the dialogue with ADB is the that the Staff Instructions (and the Access to Information Policy (AIP)) was not previously covered by compliance review. These instructions should also be mandatory and strictly adhered to by ADB staff. Should there be any changes to the AIP and Staff Instructions, the changes should be subject to public consultation before it can be implemented. There is a need to reinstate the project's focal point into the new policy.

ADB STRATEGY 2030

The Forum intends to continue monitoring the revisions to the Strategy 2030 draft and had initiated initial discussions around the consultation process and approach paper with relevant ADB departments such as the ADB Strategy Policy Department, Office of the President and other departments such as IED.

Ongoing activities:

- Legal Strategy in challenging ADBs Immunity for Marinduque Marcopper Mining Disaster, Philippines
- Legal Strategy on proving ADBs culpability in KJDRP mass displacement and Modhupur Ecopark Project

**ASIAN PEOPLE'S CALL
ON CHALLENGING
ADB'S IMMUNITY**

**APRIL 19 - 20, 2017
UP SOLAIR, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY**



ecological destruction, torture and murder of IP leaders in Bangladesh

- Pushing for Binding Treaty on IFIs
- NO DILUTION ADB SAFEGUARDS 2010: IED Phase 3
- ADB PCP Review

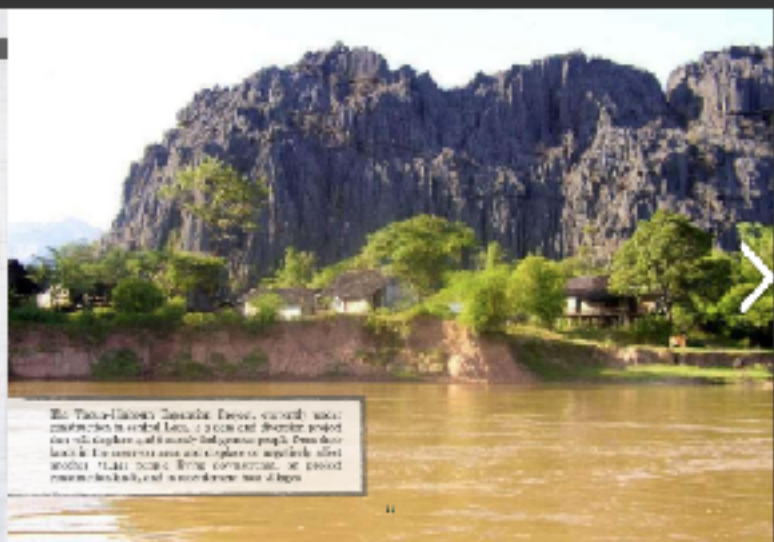
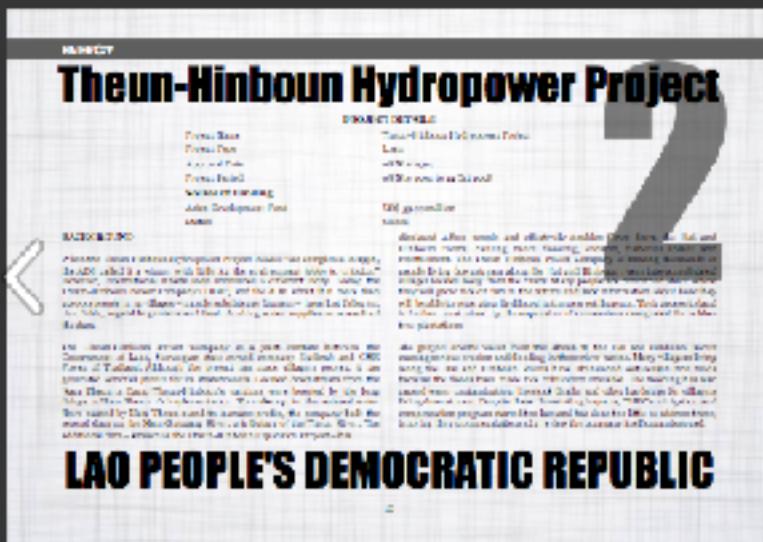
A VISUAL TESTIMONY OF ADB'S 50 YEARS OF DESTRUCTION

The NGO Forum on ADB for twenty – five (25) years has been at the forefront as an independent Asian – led civil society network that actively monitors ADB policies and projects with damning impacts on the ground. Since its inception in 1992, the Forum had actively advocates for the rights of local communities affected by the ADB’s policies and large – scale infrastructure projects. In ADB’s 50th year of operations in Asia and the Pacific, the Forum came up with this photo book that exposes the half a century of ADB’s false promises in contributing to the rising inequality, illegitimate debts, environmental plunder, massive displacement, human rights violations and increasing vulnerability of the poor. This photo book is structured in five (5) sections namely on ADB’s irreparable damage and impacts on the thematic issues of Energy, Forest, Infrastructure, Water and Human Rights. The projects are

arranged chronologically from oldest to newest project in each thematic section. At the end of each project, a legend of ADB violations is listed. The summary of ADB violations include human rights violations, displacement, environmental destruction, air pollution, information disclosure and meaningful consultation; gender and indigenous people. The description of each legend is indicated in the following section. This photo book is also a recognition of the local struggles and the continuing fight for social justice of all the affected communities by these ADB – financed projects.

MISSING THE MARK ADB @ 50

NGO Forum on ADB together with Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center-Kasama sa Kalikasan/Friends of the Earth Philippines (LRC-KsK/FoE Phils.) published titled MISSING THE MARK : ADB@50. The special publication is an initial survey of financing trends of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and its relation to debt dependence, high level rent seeking behaviour and involuntary displacement of the marginalized and poor. It was launched during the Asian People's Call on Challenging ADB's Immunity in UP SOLAIR.



FORUM ANNUAL MEETING 2017

Members of the board convened at UP Diliman a few days before Asian People's Call to discuss plans for the ADB AGM in Yokohama. The Forum Annual Meeting 2017 focused primarily on the 3 day AGENDA for the Asian Peoples Call on Challenging ADBs Immunity, which was the focal event for NGO Forum on ADB on ADBs 50th Year. The FAM also marked out key achievements and highlights in the AIIB front, marked out key timelines and dates of various activities of the Operational Plan 2017 and distributed responsibilities among members.

ASIAN PEOPLE'S CALL ON CHALLENGING ADB'S IMMUNITY

The Asian People's Call was held a few weeks prior to the ADB's 50th annual governor's meeting at UP SOLAIRE on April 19 and 20. Members of Civil Society Organizations, representatives of affected communities, environmental advocates, students and various members of the Forum gathered at UP Solaire to voice out their grievances borne of ADB's 50 Years of destructive policies and failing development. The call highlighted the ADB's participation and involvement in the following:

1. Financing Dams, Displacement, and Destruction

2. Inequality, Debt, and transfer of wealth to private sector
3. The climate crisis and decarbonizing ADB at 50 years
4. Lack of transparency, oppression, and shrinking CSO space
5. ADB's exploitation of labor
6. Social inclusivity and ADB's impacts on vulnerable groups

Workshops on Transparency, Labor Rights, Decarbonization, Inequality, Displacement, Shrinking Space and Vulnerable Groups were also held during the course of the 2 Day event at the UP ISSI. Members from various NGOs and CSOs were in attendance and gave their inputs on the topics mentioned. Panel discussions on Accountability Mechanisms and Large Scale Infrastructure Investments were held during the first day, and Statements were made and gathered by participating groups and community representatives at UP Solaire the following day. These gatherings culminated in a Walk of Shame protest that was held in front of ADB HQ on Apr 21.

50TH ADB ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S MEETING

During the ADB 50th AGM held in Yokohama Japan on May 4 to 7 2017, the Forum had a session with ADB President Nakao during the





first day, where the ‘Missing the Mark’ Study and the ADB Photobook of 50 Years of Destruction was handed over to him by Marinduque Affected Community Representative.

The Forum convened also convened 3 civil society sessions on -

- 1) ADBs historical responsibility on Safeguards Failure
- 2) ADBs Energy Investment during the Climate Crisis
- 3) ADBs non compliance to Labor Standards

Apart from the inside sessions the Forum also convened an outside action in coordination with FOE Japan, JACSES, MEKONG Watch and other Japanese civil society groups on May 4-7, 2017

LAUNCH OF VISUAL TESTIMONY OF ADBS 50 YEARS OF DESTRUCTION

The Visual Testimony of ADBs 50 Years of Destruction was officially launched with a press conference and Ms. Regina Lopez former DENR Secretary was also invited to discuss the impact of ADB in Marcopper Mining Disaster.

NGO Forum on ADB along with Philippines Working Group members, PRRM, FDC, LRC and others met with DENR Secretary Gina Lopez at the Sulu Hotel in Quezon city on June 27, 2017 to discuss the ADB’s link to the Marcopper Mining Incident along with other ADB funded projects in the country. The aim of this meeting was to have a meaningful dialogue with the DENR Secretary in order to make plans on how to proceed with the current situations surrounding past, current, and future ADB funded government actions given its history of affecting the environment through destructive development projects and shady policies. During the discussion a legal strategy around challenging ADBs Immunity was explored with verbal commitment of support from Ms. Regina Lopez’s office.

ASIA CLEAN ENERGY FORUM (ACEF)

On June 6 2017, The Forum, alongside PUP SPEAK, PMCJ, FDC and APMDD, gathered in front of ADB Manila HQ to protest the financing of “dirty” energy source and to call on ADB to recognize the environmental and social impact of its projects that operate under the false pretense of clean energy,



while still pushing the use of coal and other dirty energy sources. The ADB has been advised to transition to renewable energy investments.

ASIAN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT BANK (AIIB)

Forum has taken into account the movement of the AIIB in its advocacies since 2016, citing that this new entity which can potentially commit the same mistakes and cause the same harm as the ADB. Forum positioned itself as the first international civil society coalition to officially engage the AIIB as part of its overall thrust.

A desk review was conducted and concluded in June 2016 and subsequent hiring of the person to handle AIIB campaign. But as early as April 2014, a formal letter of introduction addressed to the president-designate and interim multilateral secretariat was already sent to AIIB. Through a number of audio-video consultations, CSOs led by Forum submitted a comprehensive critique on AIIB's draft Environmental and Safeguards Framework (ESF). A General Call has been made to gather a wide range of relevant groups, to build a knowledge base and conduct initial actions on alternative energy

and infrastructure as a response to AIIB and BRI.

The forum has determined 4 areas of work necessary for the campaign on the AIIB

- **DATA GATHERING AND DATA BASE BUILDING** is crucial to obtaining concrete information and data as basis for our campaigns. Initial hard copies have been compiled, with fact sheets and orientation papers prepared in order to kickstart the knowledge base with regards to the AIIB. Infographics on projects have also been prepared based on data from the field and websites.
- **RESEARCH AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION** in order to share with the network any information updates on a regular basis. This is to make the analysis and critique of AIIB's policies (particularly the AOA, ESF, ESS, PPI and PPM) go smoother and more efficiently. Working groups are also conducting studies on the AIIB's Country Safeguards Systems.
- **NETWORK BUILDING AND BROAD ALLIANCES** –the forum has enlisted the aid of certain groups for the AIIB campaign, including: AIIB WG, IAWG, EuroIFI, GRRR, CAN. These groups can help organize, direct, and coordinate



regional/country activities in their respective areas.

- **CAMPAIGN:** on AIIB's OPERATIONS, POLICIES, and PROJECTS: Participants in the campaign on AIIB aims to open up communication and dialogue with Management and Board of Directors regarding policy and information. Meetings with relevant/key individuals in AIIB and regular lobby work in HQ will sustain the Forum's presence in the spaces for CSO's which in turn can establish "open" dialogue at relevant venues such as AGMs. This space can open up to facilitation of membership participation in policy critique and liaising between groups on projects; resulting an a smoother exchange of information and laying the foundations for fruitful site visits.

BEIJING LOBBY MEETINGS

Between February 7-9, AIIB opened up dialogue with CSOs regarding their participation at the AIIB AGM, arranging a structure for regular consultation and participation with the AIIB policymaking procedures, raising concerns regarding energy and setting up for more meaningful engagements. The meeting was attended by: VP Amsberg, Uwe Wixforth, Senior Strategy and Policy Advisor, and Xiao Wang, Economist from the AIIB; Rayyan Hassan and Luz Julieta Ligthart from NGO Forum, Lidy Nacpil, APMDD, Dr Yu Xiaogang, Green Watershed and Bai Yunwen, Greenovation Hub. This was the first formal meeting with AIIB with Asian regional networks and national Chinese organizations which open the door for CSO participation. However, despite this openness, the meetings were strictly controlled.



In preparation for the coming 2nd AIIB AGM in Jeju, Korea, a press briefing was conducted among the press people in order to raise awareness regarding the involvement of the Philippine government with the AIIB. The Philippines membership to AIIB was ratified last December 2016.

AIIB PRESS BRIEFING

The Press Briefing served as venue for discussing the issues surrounding government projects backed and funded by the AIIB in the coming years. The panel was composed of Luz Julieta Ligthart, Ann Perreras, and Dr. Eduardo Tadem were panel speakers.

ASIAN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT BANK (AIIB) ANNUAL MEETING

During this 2nd AGM, it was the first time that CSOs were given more space during the official session. A large delegation from the Forum were present during the Management Consultation with the AIIB President allowing to directly air out CSO concerns and issues.

Alongside this, there were side meetings that allowed for face to face discussions with the management. These included VP on Policy and Strategy, and the Environmental and Safeguards Consultant, the head of the Compliance, Effectiveness and Integrity Unit (CEIU), and the head of the Communication



and Development Department. CSOs that attended are unified with the feeling that we have established ourselves in the AIIB. Strategic Discussion on Challenging Immunity and Exploring Critical Engagement on AIIB's Policies, Investment, and Projects.

The aim of the meeting was to come to an understanding on the forum's immunity and Indian CSO campaigns, come up with an agenda for the AIIB Annual Meeting and to provide a framework for future advocacy campaigns on IFIs. This was also an opportunity for the Forum to gather and reactivate members of the Indian working group by soliciting new memberships and validating previous members.

Attended by 27 participants, 17 from mass organizations in Mumbai, India.

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS (IAM)

This year the annual meeting of the Network of Independent Accountability Mechanisms (IAM) took place in the city of Thessaloniki, Greece. A roundtable discussion between representatives of the mechanisms and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working on accountability agendas was conducted. At the same time, a public outreach event was held to present the work of the IAMNet Network and the characteristics and mandates of the main accountability mechanisms of the International Financial



Institutions (IFIs), Inspection of the World Bank, the MICI of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB Group) or the CAO of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), among others.

2017 TRANSCONTINENTAL DIALOGUE ON CHINESE INVESTMENT IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

NGO Forum on ADB attended the 2017 Transcontinental Dialogue on Chinese Investment in the Global South organised by EarthRights International. The dialogue discussed Chinese investment in destructive development projects across the Mekong and Amazon River regions. Community leaders, civil society experts, and academics came together in Chiang Mai to share strategies for confronting these cases of earth rights abuse. They identified points of leverage and tactics to engage with major financiers and Chinese enterprises. Organized by the Henrich Boel foundation, the meeting was organized in order to take stock and reflect on the challenges and opportunities of the current ASEAN development model in order to come up with a set of recommendations toward a sustainable development paradigm for the region. The purpose of establishing an

integrated economic community was to further accelerate economic growth, enhance trade dev in the region and allow the free movement of goods services skilled labor and capital while creating a community that lived in shared stability and prosperity. However the economic dev model may not be sustainable as it faces the challenges of the current state of the world: enormous income inequalities, lack of social security for the masses, lack of institutional capacities, an unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, widespread environmental destruction, the loss of rural livelihoods and local conflicts.

ASEAN CIVIL SOCIETY CONFERENCE/ ASEAN PEOPLES' FORUM (ACSC/APF)

The Forum attended the ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ASEAN Peoples' Forum (ACSC/APF) 2017. The event addresses issues around peace, justice and human rights, development and democratization in ASEAN towards the attainment of sustainable peace and development. It is a solidarity gathering of diverse civil society organisations in Southeast Asia, which organises its own parallel activities during the ASEAN Summit. it is a broad civil society movement on





ASEAN issue that has a strong mandate in representing and strengthening ASEAN peoples' voices. For the past 11 years, it remains a strategic platform for civil society organisations to engage ASEAN member states and mechanisms.

INTERNATIONAL TAXATION IN ASIA: ISSUES AND THE WAY FORWARD

NGO Forum on ADB co-organized this year's Independent Accountability Mechanism's (IAMs) - Civil Society Organisations outreach workshop in Bangkok, Thailand. The event was made possible with the help of other organisations namely: International Accountability Project, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, Center for International Environmental Law, and International Rivers. The discussions mainly revolved around (i) addressing barriers to filing complaints - accessibility, access to information, and anonymity; addressing security concerns and reprisals; (ii) remedial action and the last mile problem - ensuring affected communities receive effective remedy; and (iii) accountability issues raised by joint co-financing of projects and financial intermediaries.

IAMS-CSOS ASIA OUTREACH WORKSHOP

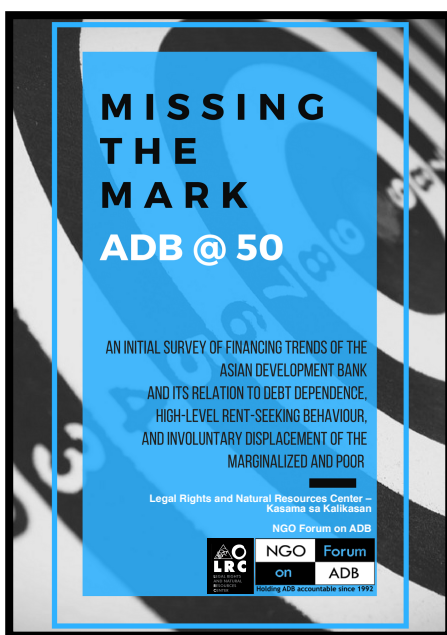
The Forum was also able to attend the International Taxation in Asia: Issues and the Way Forward in Jakarta, Indonesia. The meeting was conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Finance, Indonesia will hold a high-level conference to engage

policymakers on issues related to international tax reforms.

The conference invited high-level policy makers from the region, senior staff from international and regional organizations, senior staff from Ministries of Finance and Tax Administrations, and members of academia and civil society. The aim is for the discussions is to inform other upcoming high-level engagements, including the 2018 Annual Meetings of the IMF and World Bank which will be held in Indonesia in October 2018.



RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION



MISSING THE MARK : ADB@50

An initial survey of financing trends of the Asian Development Bank and its relation to debt dependence, high level rent seeking behaviour and involuntary displacement of the marginalized and poor.

Bankwatch, March 2017

Bankwatch issue for March that includes stories about energy, indigenous peoples, and illegitimate debt.



Bankwatch, July 2017

A Bankwatch issue that focuses on Asian Development Bank's (ADB) 50 years of operation in Asia.



Assessment of the impacts of ADB-funded railway project on the resettled community of Trapeang Chanh, with focus on the situation lived by project affected women (Cambodia)

The research shows that the implementation of ADB policies has been significantly limited since the project commencement with disastrous consequences on the livelihood of affected households.



***Gender Impact Research Kolkata
Environmental Improvement Project
(India)***

The Kolkata Environmental Improvement Project in India funded by the ADB exposes the dangerous face of development projects which claims to improve the lives of people but instead of making people's lives easier, these projects destabilize them and make them more vulnerable.



***Advocacy for the people's tribunal on the
ADB's gender impacts on a
project-affected community
(Bangladesh)***

Asian Development Bank enjoys immunity in every form of legal process. As a result, ADB is not legally liable to communities, governments or individuals for any wrongdoing, harm or violation of rights. In addition, ADB is not gendered focus in their project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation with clearly disaggregated indicators.



A Visual Testimony of ADB's 50 Years of Destruction

A photo book that contains fifty ADB funded projects from around the world where peoples lives and the environment has been drastically impacted and destroyed forever.

FINANCIAL REPORT



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PRC/SEC Certificate of Registration No. 016
 (valid until December 31, 2018)

**The Board of Trustees and general membership
 NGO FORUM ON ADB, INC.**

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

OPINION

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of **NGO FORUM ON ADB, INC.** (a non-stock, nonprofit organization), which comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 2017 and 2016 and the related statements of revenues and expenses, changes in fund balances and cash flows for the years then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of **NGO FORUM ON ADB, INC.** as at December 31, 2017 and 2016, and its financial performance and cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with Philippine Financial Reporting Standards for Small and Medium-sized Entities (SMES).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Philippine Standards on Auditing (PSAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Organization in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the Philippines, the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants in the Philippines, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with PFRS for SMEs, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Organization or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Organization's financial reporting process.

REDOR, EMERSON & CO.
Certified Public Accountants

**The Board of Trustees and general membership
NGO FORUM ON ADB, INC.**
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Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our Objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with PSAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with PSAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control.

Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organization to cease to continue as a going concern.

REDOR, EMERSON & CO.
Certified Public Accountants

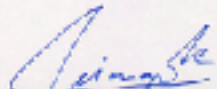
The Board of Trustees and general membership
NGO FORUM ON ADB, INC.
Page 2

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (cont'd)

Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Organization to express an opinion on the financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



RODRIGO B. NIANGO JR.
Partner

CPA Certificate No. 0133885

TIN 217-761-542-000

PTR No. 5610135

January 8, 2018

Quezon City, Metro-Manila

BIR Accreditation no. 05-003030-001-2018 (01/10/2018-01/09/2020)

April 12, 2018

NGO FORUM ON ADB, INC.
(A Non-Stock, Non-Profit Organization)

BALANCE SHEET
(in Philippine pesos)

December 31,	Notes	2017	2016
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	7,480,945.87	11,177,450.28
Accounts receivable	4	388,442.93	377,575.69
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		7,869,388.80	11,555,025.97
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT - Net		41,229.83	10,445.49
OTHER ASSETS			
Miscellaneous deposits/prepayment		881,155.00	294,455.00
TOTAL ASSETS		8,791,773.62	11,859,926.46
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Accounts payables	6	2,594,872.01	2,299,833.72
FUND BALANCES			
General fund		2,436,759.79	2,060,227.11
Restricted funds	14	3,718,911.99	7,489,420.14
Property and equipment fund	5	41,229.83	10,445.49
TOTAL FUND BALANCES		6,196,901.61	9,560,092.74
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		8,791,773.62	11,859,926.46

See Accompanying notes to financial statements

NGO FORUM ON ADB, INC.

(A Non-Stock, Non-Profit Organization)

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES AND FUND BALANCE

(in Philippine pesos)

Years ended December 31,	Notes	GENERAL FUND	RESTRICTED FUNDS	PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT FUND	2017	2016
REVENUES						
Grants/other donations		199,085.42	11,724,898.49	-	11,923,983.91	22,296,248.49
Interest Income		10,530.27	-	-	10,530.27	11,988.32
Foreign exchange gain/loss		216,755.99	-	-	216,755.99	928,359.13
TOTAL REVENUES		426,371.68	11,724,898.49	-	12,151,270.17	23,236,595.94
LESS: EXPENSES						
Information Management	8	-	925,987.81	-	925,987.81	1,013,971.50
Research/Policy Analysis and Publication	9	-	3,843,516.15	-	3,843,516.15	4,464,227.65
Advocacy Support and Network Building	10	-	8,231,928.32	-	8,231,928.32	6,904,821.12
Capability Building and Internship	11	-	7,500.00	-	7,500.00	102,098.52
Personnel	12	-	1,813,629.81	-	1,813,629.81	1,098,936.00
Organizational Expenses	13	49,839.00	618,854.55	-	668,693.55	779,119.07
Depreciation		-	-	23,205.67	23,205.67	7,538.43
TOTAL EXPENSES		49,839.00	15,441,416.64	23,205.67	15,514,461.31	14,370,712.29
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES		376,532.68	(3,716,518.15)	(23,205.67)	(3,363,191.14)	8,865,883.65
ADD (Deduct):						
Fund Balance, beginning		2,060,227.11	7,489,420.14	10,445.49	9,560,092.74	694,209.09
Property and equipment acquired		-	(53,990.00)	53,990.00	-	-
FUND BALANCE, December 31		2,436,759.79	3,718,911.99	41,229.83	6,196,901.60	9,560,092.74

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

NGO FORUM ON ADB, INC.
 (A Non-Stock, Non-Profit Organization)
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW
 (in Philippine Pesos)

Years ended December 31,	2017	2016
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Deficiency of revenues over expenses	(3,363,191.14)	8,865,883.65
Add (Deduct)		
Depreciation expense	23,205.67	7,538.43
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Decrease (Increase) in Accounts Receivable	(10,867.24)	(261,286.94)
Miscellaneous deposits/Prepayment	(586,700.00)	213,114.56
Increase (Decrease) in Accounts Payable	295,038.29	499,949.34
Net cash used in operating activities	(3,642,514.42)	9,325,199.04
Cash flow from office equipment acquisition	(53,990.00)	-
NET DECREASE IN CASH	(3,696,504.42)	9,325,199.04
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS BALANCE		
Beginning of year	11,177,450.28	1,852,251.24
END OF YEAR	7,480,945.87	11,177,450.28
See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements		

NGO FORUM ON ADB, INC.
(A Non-Stock, Non-Profit Organization)

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF RESTRICTED FUNDS
(in Philippine pesos)

Years ended December 31,	Notes	11.11.11 COALITION	C.S. MOTT FOUNDATION	BOTH ENDS	GROWALD FAMILY FUND/ EUROPEAN CLIMATE FUND	GREEN GRANT FUND	OXFAM AUSTRALIA	2017 TOTAL
REVENUES								
Grants/other donations		2,538,379.53	8,931,601.35	-	-	254,917.61	-	11,724,898.49
TOTAL REVENUES		2,538,379.53	8,931,601.35	-	-	254,917.61	-	11,724,898.49
LESS: EXPENSES								
Information Management 8								
Salaries & benefits		90,100.00	415,161.27	-	141,000.00	-	-	646,261.27
Website/webhosting & other expenses		115,906.86	16,225.42	-	-	-	85,094.26	217,226.54
Other Contracted Services		-	62,500.00	-	-	-	-	62,500.00
Sub-total		206,006.86	493,886.69	-	141,000.00	-	85,094.26	925,987.81
Research/Policy Analysis and Publication 9								
Salaries & benefits		132,500.00	1,811,154.26	-	254,443.63	-	-	2,198,097.89
Foreign travel & other expenses		-	974,406.34	-	-	-	-	974,406.34
Publication		120,250.00	474,005.15	-	76,756.77	-	-	671,011.92
Sub-total		252,750.00	3,259,565.75	-	331,200.40	-	-	3,843,516.15
Advocacy Support and Network Building 10								
Policy review		419,686.03	2,252,046.64	394,462.56	17,434.96	-	820.00	3,084,450.19
NGO campaign at ADB annual meeting		890,759.29	716,740.40	-	-	254,917.61	-	1,862,417.30
Forum annual meeting		236,633.38	1,283,720.38	-	-	-	-	1,520,353.76
Other Contracted Services		-	1,042,272.00	-	-	-	-	1,042,272.00
Network Building		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salaries & benefits		90,100.00	436,520.41	-	141,000.00	-	54,814.66	722,435.07
Sub-total		1,637,178.70	5,731,299.83	394,462.56	158,434.96	254,917.61	55,634.66	8,231,928.32
Capability Building and Internship 11								
Skillshare workshop		7,500.00	-	-	-	-	-	7,500.00

NGO FORUM ON ADB, INC.
(A Non-Stock, Non-Profit Organization)

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF RESTRICTED FUNDS
(in Philippine pesos)

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Years ended December 31,	Notes	11.11.11 COALITION	C.S. MOTT FOUNDATION	BOTH ENDS	GROWALD FAMILY FUND/ EUROPEAN CLIMATE FUND	GREEN GRANT FUND	OXFAM AUSTRALIA	2016 TOTAL
Personnel 12								
Salaries & benefits		156,350.00	988,568.60	-	141,000.00	-	127,641.26	1,413,559.86
Legislated benefits		-	134,644.20	-	-	-	-	134,644.20
Medical benefits		-	127,425.75	-	-	-	-	127,425.75
Other contracted services		39,000.00	66,500.00	-	19,500.00	-	13,000.00	138,000.00
Sub-total		195,350.00	1,317,138.55	-	160,500.00	-	140,641.26	1,813,629.81
Organizational Expenses 13								
Office rent		53,000.00	70,000.00	61,500.00	20,500.00	-	41,000.00	246,000.00
Utilities		53,572.39	5,400.00	15,129.91	13,590.21	-	11,753.74	99,446.25
Local transportation		19,391.31	25,853.90	-	12,461.80	-	-	57,707.01
Audit fees & other expenses		27,250.00	46,834.76	-	-	-	5,000.00	79,084.76
Postage and communication		-	48,849.06	6,772.31	8,504.07	-	26,394.47	90,519.91
Taxes, licenses & other expenses		-	12,022.75	-	-	-	-	12,022.75
Office & equipment supplies		-	3,500.00	9,356.00	11,209.95	-	809.00	24,874.95
Repairs & maintenance		-	7,777.25	-	-	-	-	7,777.25
Bank charges		-	663.67	-	-	-	-	663.67
Reproduction of materials		-	475.00	-	-	-	-	475.00
Representation allowance		-	283.00	-	-	-	-	283.00
Foreign exchange loss		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub-total		153,213.70	221,659.39	92,758.22	66,266.03	-	84,957.21	618,854.55
TOTAL EXPENSES		2,451,999.26	11,023,550.21	487,220.78	857,401.39	254,917.61	366,327.39	15,441,416.64
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES								
OVER EXPENSES		86,380.27	(2,091,948.86)	(487,220.78)	(857,401.39)	-	(366,327.39)	(3,716,518.15)
ADD (DEDUCT)								
Fund balance, beginning		-	4,587,089.14	397,020.34	2,505,310.66	-	-	7,489,420.14
Property and equipment acquired		-	(53,990.00)	-	-	-	-	(53,990.00)
FUND BALANCES (DEFICIENCY),								
December 31, 2017		86,380.27	2,441,150.28	(90,200.44)	1,647,909.27	-	(366,327.39)	3,718,911.99

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

NGO FORUM ON ADB, INC.
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 December 31, 2017 and 2016
 (In Philippine Pesos)

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3. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

This is accounted for as follows:

	TOTAL	
	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,	
	2017	2016
Cash on hand - peso	33,590.55	3,203.89
Cash in bank - peso accounts	551,269.57	292,771.48
-US\$ accounts (\$116,878.43 in 2017 and \$190,892.05 in 2016)	5,794,287.39	9,451,689.72
- Euro accounts (EUR 18,550.98 in 2017 and EUR 27,580.52 in 2016)	1,101,798.36	1,429,785.19
TOTAL	7,480,945.87	11,177,450.28

4. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

This consists the following:

	TOTAL	
	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,	
	2017	2016
Accounts/Staff advances	359,551.66	350,254.31
Other receivables	28,891.27	27,321.38
TOTAL	388,442.93	377,575.69

5. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

These are accounted for as follow:

	2017	2016
Equipment, furniture and fixtures cost		
Balance at beginning of the year	345,825.01	685,952.01
Additions (disposals)	(59,495.00)	(340,127.00)
Balance at end of year	286,330.01	345,825.01
Accumulated depreciation		
Balance at beginning of year	335,379.52	667,968.09
Depreciation	23,203.67	7,526.43
Additions (Disposals)	(113,483.01)	(340,115.00)
Balance at end of year	245,100.18	335,379.52
Net book value, end of year	41,229.83	10,445.49

6. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

This consists the following:

	2017	2016
Staff	1,098,670.28	1,039,839.18
Unreleased checks/withdrawals	1,329,979.45	493,096.03
Other payables	166,222.28	766,898.51
TOTAL	2,594,872.01	2,299,833.72

7. LEASE AGREEMENT

In December 2017, the Organization renewed its lease agreement in 85-A Masikap Street Extension Quezon City to Ms. Lorena A. Alcordo for the office and premises it presently occupies. The lease agreement was for a term of one year from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018 renewable upon the mutual agreement of both parties.

8. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

This consists the following:

	General Fund		Restricted Fund	
	2017	2016	2017	2016
Salaries and benefits	-	731,355.53	731,355.53	680,787.26
Website/webhosting and other expenses	-	194,632.28	194,632.28	333,184.24
TOTAL	-	925,987.81	925,987.81	1,013,971.50

NGO FORUM ON ADB, INC.
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 December 31, 2017 and 2016
 (In Philippine Pesos)

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9. RESEARCH/POLICY ANALYSIS & PUBLICATION

This consists the following:

	General Fund	Restricted Fund	2017	2016
Salaries and benefits	-	2,198,097.89	2,198,097.89	1,856,178.47
Foreign travel and other expenses	-	974,406.34	974,406.34	635,537.32
Publications	-	671,011.92	671,011.92	1,831,838.26
Other contracted services	-	-	-	140,673.60
TOTAL	-	3,843,516.15	3,843,516.15	4,464,227.65

10. ADVOCACY SUPPORT AND NETWORKING BUILDING

This consists the following:

	General Fund	Restricted Fund	2017	2016
Policy review	-	3,084,450.19	3,084,450.19	3,419,956.78
Forum annual meeting	-	1,520,353.76	1,520,353.76	720,842.42
Salaries and benefits	-	722,435.07	722,435.07	953,353.86
Network building	-	-	-	9,846.69
NGO Campaign at ADB annual meeting	-	1,862,417.30	1,862,417.30	1,342,648.73
Other contracted services	-	1,042,272.00	1,042,272.00	504,000.00
TOTAL	-	8,231,928.32	8,231,928.32	6,950,648.48

11. CAPABILITY BUILDING AND INTERNSHIP

This consists the following:

	General Fund	Restricted Fund	2017	2016
Skillshare workshop	-	7,500.00	7,500.00	102,098.52

12. PERSONNEL

This consists the following:

	General Fund	Restricted Fund	2017	2016
Salaries and benefits	-	1,413,559.86	1,413,559.86	746,173.52
Legislated benefits	-	134,644.20	134,644.20	119,243.34
Other contracted services	-	138,000.00	138,000.00	138,000.00
Medical Benefits	-	127,425.75	127,425.75	49,691.78
TOTAL	-	1,813,629.81	1,813,629.81	1,053,108.64

13. ORGANIZATIONAL EXPENSES

This consists the following:

	General Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2017	2016
Office rent	-	246,000.00	246,000.00	245,044.80
Utilities	-	99,446.25	99,446.25	111,505.05
Audit fees/expenses	-	79,084.76	79,084.76	75,243.00
Local transportation	-	57,707.01	57,707.01	52,372.39
Postage & communication	-	90,519.91	90,519.91	82,988.51
Office and equipment supplies	-	24,874.95	24,874.95	37,071.75
Taxes, licenses and other expenses	-	12,022.75	12,022.75	11,370.70
Repairs & maintenance	-	7,777.25	7,777.25	-
Bank charges	-	663.67	663.67	1,498.05
Representation allowance	-	283.00	283.00	755.00
Reproduction of materials	-	475.00	475.00	1,806.00
Miscellaneous	49,839.00	-	49,839.00	-
Foreign exchange loss	-	-	-	159,463.82
TOTAL	49,839.00	618,854.55	668,693.55	779,119.07

NGO FORUM ON ADB, INC.
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 December 31, 2017 and 2016
 (In Philippine Pesos)

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14. RESTRICTED FUNDS

The Organization is a custodian of funds for humanitarian projects consistent with its organizational objectives. These funds are specifically intended to finance designated projects and accordingly, are accounted for separately from its general-purpose fund. These are carried as restricted funds until such time that the project has been completed. The balances of these funds will revert to the grantor/donor or in certain instances, to the Organization's general or other similar purpose funds once the project is completed. The balances (deficiency) of these funds are accounted for as follows:

	2017	2016
C. S. Mott Foundation	2,441,150.28	4,587,089.14
Oxfam Australia	(366,327.39)	-
Growald Family Fund /European Climate Fund	1,647,909.27	2,505,310.66
Both Ends	(90,200.44)	397,020.34
11.11.11 Coalition	86,380.27	-
TOTAL	3,718,911.99	7,489,420.14

15. APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements of the Organization for the year ended December 31, 2017 were approved by the board of trustees and authorized for issue on April 12, 2018.

**NGO FORUM ON ADB, INC.
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The NGO Forum on ADB, Inc. is a nonstock, nonprofit organization involved in conducting scientific and other researches as the means of assisting charitable organizations in understanding the work of the Asian Development Bank (ADB); developing closer working ties with other Asian Non-governmental Organizations/Peoples Organizations (NGOs/POs) and other public interest groups regarding advocacy work related to the ADB; stimulating public awareness and action on issues related to the ADB; and sharpening public debate and understanding of the basic issues on ADB's growth-oriented development model and centralized top-down development. Its operations are principally funded by grants and donations from foreign and local institutions and groups as well as individuals. The Organization was incorporated with the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission on May 28, 2001.

The Organization leases and maintains its office at 85-A Masikap Ext., Barangay Central, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines. It has 7 regular staff as of December 31, 2017 and 6 regular staff for December 31, 2016.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The significant accounting policies that have been used in the preparation of these financial statements are summarized below.

Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements of the Organization have been prepared in accordance with the Philippine Financial Reporting Standards for Small and Medium-sized Entities issued and approved by the International Accounting Standards Board and the Securities and Exchange Commission, effective for period beginning January 1, 2010.

The Organization has qualified as Small and Medium-sized Entities and it has opted to apply the applicable financial reporting standards effective as of January 1, 2010.

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis. The measurement bases are more fully described in the accounting policies below. The financial statements are presented in Philippine pesos, the Organization's functional currency, and all values represent absolute amounts except when otherwise indicated.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash includes cash on hand and in banks. Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid debt instruments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with original maturities of three months or less and that are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Receivables (Trade and non-trade)

Receivables are stated at net realizable value based on review of all outstanding accounts at balance sheet date. Bad debts are written-off in the year they are identified.

Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of assets less their residual values over their estimated useful lives.

NGO FORUM ON ADB, INC.
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016

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Depreciation is computed on a straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets as follows:

	<u>Estimated useful life</u>
Office equipment	2 – 5 years
Furniture & fixtures	2 – 10 years

The foregoing estimated useful lives and depreciation method are reviewed from time to time to ensure that these are consistent with the expected economic benefits of the property and equipment.

Payables (Trade and non-trade)

Payables are obligations on the basis of normal credit terms and do not bear interest.

Revenue and Cost Recognition

Revenue is recognized when it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Organization and the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably.

When the outcome of a transaction involving the rendering of services can be estimated reliably, revenue associated with the transaction shall be recognized by reference to the stage of completion of the transaction at the balance sheet date.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and represents amount receivable for goods or services provided in the normal course of operation.

Cost and administrative expenses are recognized in the statement of income upon utilization of the service or in the date they are incurred.

Leases

Lease is classified as operating lease, rent expense under operating lease is charged to profit or loss on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease.

Employee Benefits

Employee benefits are all forms of consideration given by the Organization in exchange for service rendered by employees and management. The liability for employee benefit obligations relates to the government-mandated benefit program. These employee benefits include short-term and post-employment benefit.

Short-term employee benefits comprise payment to salaries, wages, social security contributions, short-term compensated absences, and other related benefits. Under this benefit program, any unpaid short-term benefits at the end of the accounting period are recognized as accrued expense, any short-term benefits paid in advance are recognized as a prepayment, to the extent, that it will lead to a reduction in future payments and the cost of short-term benefits are recognized as expense in the period when the economic benefit is given.

NGO FORUM ON ADB, INC.**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016

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Employee Benefits (Contd.)

Post-employment benefits include defined contribution plan and defined benefit plan. The benefit for defined contribution plan comprises the Organization's contribution to the Social Security System (SSS) and Home Mutual Development Fund (HDMF). The Organization's obligation to this plan is limited to specified contributions as mandated by the SSS and HDMF.

While the benefit for defined benefit plan comprises cost and obligation to employees recognized during the employees' periods of service, all full-time staff members, excluding trustees, are covered by this plan. The cost and obligation are measured using the projected unit credit method.

Impairment of Assets

At each reporting date, receivables, investments, property, plant and equipment are reviewed to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If there is an indication of possible impairment, the recoverable amount of any affected asset (or group of related assets) is estimated and compared with its carrying amount. If estimated recoverable amount is lower, the carrying amount is reduced to its estimated recoverable amount, and an impairment loss is recognized immediately in profit and loss. However, if an impairment loss subsequently reverses, a reversal of an impairment loss is recognized immediately in profit or loss.

Income Tax

The Organization, as a non-stock, non-profit corporation, is exempt from income tax pursuant to Section 30 (G) of the exemptions, National Internal Revenue Code of the Philippines. Such however, does not apply to income of whatever kind and character derived from the use of its properties real or personal, or any of its activities conducted for profit, regardless of dispositions made of such income.

Translation of Foreign Currency

For financial reporting purposes, transactions of foreign currency are translated at current rates in effect at the date of transaction. Gains or losses arising from conversion to pesos during the year as well as year-end translation of foreign currency into pesos are credited or charged to operations.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE



Hemantha Withanage

International Convener
Sri Lanka



Eduardo Tadem

Treasurer
Philippines



Titi Soentero

International Committee
Indonesia



Eang Vuthy

International Committee
Cambodia



Yuki Tanabe

International Committee
Japan



Hasan Mehedi

International Committee
Bangladesh



Huub Scheele

International Committee
The Netherlands

OUR PARTNERS



CHARLES STEWART
MOTT FOUNDATION



OXFAM
Australia



GROWALD
FAMILY FUND



POST SCRIPT

2014 was a year of expansion for NGO Forum on ADB. This expansion was both in terms of the scope of the advocacy as well as in outreach of the membership. As the year began the Forum was following through with its activities as earmarked in its LTSP and looking to engage in the 1st phase evaluation of the ADB SPS by IED and continue monitor projects on the ground. After being stonewalled by the IED all through 2013 the Bank finally relented in the 47th AGM in Kazakhstan and allowed a more thorough integration into the SPS evaluation.

This was counted as a victory by the membership and was further capitalized down the year for a full sharing of IEDs findings with the network. The Forum continued to not only monitor ADB's investments but also its role in the overall development finance architecture of Asia. Allies and Forum members in Europe and the USA were continually sharing information on the ongoing WB Safeguards review, which was not ushering well. There were long discussions on dilutions of policies being heralded by the WB, which would have a cascading influence on the ADB policies as well. In order for loans to be lucrative to the borrower the WB was looking to downplay the need for environmental and social safeguarding.

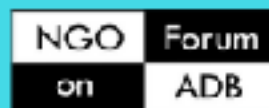
The Forum was quick to realize the urgency of this dynamic (and its aftermath) and decided extended its experience and support to the global civil society advocacy campaign on the World Bank Safeguards. Through direct engagement and dialogue with WB EDs, US Treasury, Congress the Forum continued its advocacy on the position of 'upward harmonization' of safeguard policies. Thereby implying that the binding requirements within the ADB standards should not be diluted and the WB should recognize those similar requirements and strengthen them accordingly. The notion of 'upward harmonization' was a key advocacy strategy gain for the Forum. Through the campaign, the Forum also managed to widen its reach and credibility with northern groups and became a critical civil society voice on 'infrastructure investments' from Asia.

Another key issue in 2014 was Forum's understanding in Safeguards work and reclamation of the Peoples Safeguard agenda. As much as institutional reform for better Safeguard policies was being championed, the membership felt that most of its energy and resources were being invested in the Bank's own processes where 'real' outcomes were far from being achieved on the ground. This led the Forum to initiate the Asian Peoples Safeguard Platform for Action along with key regional groups in Asia. The platform focused on strengthening local resistance, engaging national policies and government agencies; and advocating in regional and global platforms to ensure social and environmental protection from trans-boundary mega-scale infrastructure projects. It was a key dialogue in November 2014 in Bangkok, which led the Forum to write a letter to the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank to disclose its safeguards. To this end, the Forum continues to closely monitor the AIIB and its emerging role in Asian development finance.

As the development finance architecture was shifting from the west to the east with the rise of China, India and the BRICS, the Forum also learned to adapt, engage, network and unite accordingly. This adaptability has been the hallmark of our advocacy all through 2014; and I thank all of you for your commitment, talent, and determination to continue our vital work ahead.



Mr. Rayyan Hassan
Executive Director
NGO Forum on ADB



Helping ADB accountable since 1992

NGO Forum on ADB

85-A Masikap Extension, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines

<https://www.forum-adb.org>