

We Oppose the Asian Development Bank's Consultation on Safeguard Policy Statement (SPS)

Today, February 12, 2008, in this place Asian Development Bank will start its Consultation on the Safeguards Policy Statement/SPS. Similar consultations were and will be held in other regions of ADB's operations. We oppose this Consultation because the SPS is clearly weakened position and ignored rights of indigenous people and displaced people, furthermore threats environment and social condition of peoples in general.

SPS is an "unacceptable and unsuitable basis for public review and consultation" as it promotes "weak protective measures" for the environment and peoples as the function of safeguards policies are needed to be. This also shows lack of commitments of ADB to correct weaknesses in its existing loan policies.

We see that the basic weakness of SPS is due to evisceration of ADB's detailed and mandatory safeguards on the environment, involuntary resettlement, and indigenous peoples. This document also ignores a broad range international agreed upon principles and commitments regarding economic and social development and environmental protection. It also does not clearly require that social impacts be assessed as part of project due diligence, including sanction borrowers that fail to comply with ADB safeguards.

Worse, SPS proposes a flawed involuntary resettlement policy, which ignores rights of displaced persons particularly whose livelihoods are land-based, including the peasants. Moreover, it downgrades the principle of "free prior informed consent" of Indigenous Peoples to free prior informed consultations with Indigenous People communities; and introduces the use of country safeguard systems to govern ADB-funded projects in a rushed manner without allowing for a thorough debate on the pros and cons of governance system. This carries deep implications for the ADB and its borrowers accountability and the ability of project affected persons to seek recourse.

SPS doesn't consider the situation of women, and therefore provides an environment that creates and increases gender injustice in forms of discrimination, violence, double burden, stereotyping and marginalization against women. This ignorance leads to negligence of project affected women and protection of their rights.

ADB initiative to consult on flawed and diluted SPS in February 12-13 in Jakarta is only a measure to legitimize a bad ADB's policy that is potentially used as an instrument to impoverish and violates human rights of the Indonesians.

Therefore, we, the Indonesian civil society organizations who monitor policies and operations of the multilateral financial institutions, including ADB, declare:

- 1. We don't agree and don't believe the SPS Consultation process and existing dialogues held by ADB, because this legitimize only crimes against humanity on the name of development projects.**

2. ADB has to move out from Indonesia and stop [offering] various kinds of debt to Indonesia.

Jakarta, February 12, 2008

AGRA (Aliansi Gerakan Reformasi Agraria)

AMAN (Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara)

ELSAM (Lembaga Studi dan Advokasi Masyarakat)

GARPU

HuMa

IESR

INDIES

INFID (International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development)

KAU (Koalisi Anti Utang)

KEMALA

KRuHA (Koalisi Rakyat untuk Hak atas Air)

NADI

Sawit Watch

SBD (Sekretariat Bina Desa)

SHI (Sarekat Hijau Indonesia)

SPI (Serikat Petani Indonesia)

SP (Solidaritas Perempuan)

WALHI (Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia)

Yayasan Jurnal Perempuan