
GUIDE TO NGO/CIVIL SOCIETY PROGRAM

**41ST ANNUAL MEETING OF ADB'S
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**



**3 to 6 May 2008
Institución Ferial de Madrid (IFEMA)**

About this Guide

The NGO and Civil Society Center (NGOC) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has produced this guide to assist civil society organizations (CSOs) participating in events connected with the 41st Annual Meeting of the ADB Board of Governors. Through the NGO/Civil Society Program, ADB seeks to strengthen its ongoing dialogue with NGOs, labor unions, and civil society more broadly.

Forty-First Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors

The 41st Annual Meeting of ADB's Board of Governors will be held at the Institución Ferial de Madrid (IFEMA) from Saturday, 3 May to Tuesday, 6 May 2008. ADB will establish offices at IFEMA during the Annual Meeting. The offices and services will operate throughout this period. Room and telephone numbers will be published in the Meeting Handbook and Directory, which will be provided in participant registration envelopes.

The opening session will take place on the morning of Monday, 5 May. Business sessions will be held that afternoon, and throughout the day on Tuesday, 6 May. Seminars and member country presentations will be held from Saturday to Tuesday, 3–6 May. The Meeting will close at about 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, 6 May.

Participation of CSOs in the Annual Meeting

ADB welcomes the participation of accredited CSO representatives in its 41st Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting provides a venue for CSOs to interact with ADB senior staff and management, as well as with government representatives on the Board of Directors and in country delegations.

At least 100 CSO representatives from more than 20 countries are expected to participate in this year's Annual Meeting. Starting on 3 May, several sessions will be organized in the context of the NGO/Civil Society Program for CSO representatives and for other interested Annual Meeting participants.

Reaching the Annual Meeting Venue

IFEMA Convention Centre
Address: Parque Ferial Juan Carlos I, 1 28042 Madrid
Telephone: +34.91.722.50.74; Fax: +34.91.722.58.01
Email: infoifema@ifema.es

IFEMA is 10 kilometers northeast of Madrid's city limits, and is accessible both by bus and subway.

- By bus: Numbers 112, 122, and 828
- By subway: Take line 8, and get off at Campo de las Naciones Station.

Subway. The subway is open from 5:45 a.m. until 1:45 a.m. and provides good service at affordable rates. A map of the Madrid metro system can be found at: http://www.metromadrid.es/acc_resources/pdfs/Plano_Metro_2007.pdf

Tickets can be purchased at all MetroMadrid stations, the Metro Passenger Information Office (located at the station at Terminal 2 at the airport), and IFEMA.

Registration

Online registration closed on 20 April. The onsite Registration Center will be open 2–6 May to issue identification badges and other materials. Participants must wear their identification badges at all times in the meeting areas and at official events, including social events.

Participants (and accompanying persons) should collect their identification badges in person. One accompanying person (18 years or older) per participant may register for the meeting. Participants must present their passports as proof of identity. Citizens of Spain may present other officially issued photographic identification documents (e.g., a driver's license).

Unless The Secretary of ADB or the Guest Liaison Officer is advised otherwise in writing, the name and position of all registered participants will be disclosed on the registration website to other accredited organizations, banks, and financial institutions to help them issue invitations to meeting functions.

The NGO/Civil Society Room

ADB will provide a spacious room, meeting facility, discussion tables, theater section, outdoor terrace, and administrative assistance to CSOs in the Neptuno Room of the North Convention Centre. The private meeting facility can comfortably accommodate 18 persons and can be used for break-out discussions. If a CSO representative wishes to organize a meeting in this space, a request should first be made with Sari Aman-Wooster (sawooster@adb.org) of the NGOC. Reservations will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Internet Access

The NGO/Civil Society Room is equipped with four computers, and six internet access points for laptops. A dedicated printer will also be provided for use by CSO participants.

Copying Services

CSO representatives will have at their disposal a copier machine for limited quantities intended for use within the Annual Meeting venue only.

Access to Media

CSO representatives who wish to share information and views with journalists at the Annual Meeting are welcome to do so, but are expected to coordinate any briefings and other media events, such as press conferences, with the Media Center, managed by ADB's Department of External Relations. Media queries on the Annual Meeting may be addressed to Ms. Omana Nair, Head, ADB Media Relations, at the Media Center in Hall 10.

Medical Facilities

A medical team will be stationed at IFEMA during the Annual Meeting. Ambulances will transfer emergency cases to the nearest hospital. Most major hotels have a list of doctors who can be contacted should the need arise.

Climate

The temperature in May usually ranges from 11°C to 21°C (51 °F to 70°F).

Attire

The attire for the Annual Meeting is business or national dress.

Additional Information

More details on the Annual Meeting and on the host city and country are available on ADB's website at: <http://www.adb.org/annualmeeting/2008/gen-info.asp>.

Schedule of Activities for the NGO/Civil Society Program of ADB's 41st Annual Meeting

Saturday, 3 May 2008

8:00 - 10:00

North Convention Centre, Room 105

Open Forum on ADB-Civil Society Cooperation Meeting with ADB Senior Staff on Accountability, Anticorruption, Audit, and Evaluation

Senior ADB staff with responsibility for functions related to complaints handling, audit, independent evaluation, and application of ADB's Anticorruption Policy will brief CSO participants on their roles and responsibilities, as well as recent developments and coming plans. A question and answer session will follow.

ADB PANELISTS:

- Mr. Philip Daltrop, Auditor General, [ADB](#)
- Mr. Robert May, Special Project Facilitator, Office of the Special Project Facilitator, [ADB](#)
- Mr. C.R. Rajendran, Secretary, Compliance Review Panel, [ADB](#)
- Mr. Satish Rao, Director General, Operations Evaluation Department, [ADB](#)

10:30 – 11:30

North Convention Centre, Room 106

Senior Official's Meeting with CSOs

A representative of ADB's Management team will meet with CSO representatives and field questions. Given the large turn-out expected, those joining the meeting are asked to kindly arrive on time and, should they wish to pose a question, keep their interventions short to enable others to also participate.

14.00-16.00

North Convention Centre, Room 105

Panel Discussion: Exploring Best Practices to Mainstream Core Labor Standards

The Core Labor Standards (CLS) are an integral part of ADB's development mission and have been incorporated into the bank's Social Protection Strategy. CLS are a set of four internationally recognized basic rights and principles at work aimed at ensuring workers' rights to trade union organization and collective bargaining, freedom from discrimination in the workplace, and the elimination of child labor and forced labor. Launched in 2006, the ADB Core Labor Standards Handbook informs bank staff of the four CLS and their application to ADB operations. Initial poverty and social assessments of ADB-financed projects are required to take into account labor impacts. In this panel discussion, representatives of public sector workers, the International Labour Organization, NGO Forum on ADB, and ADB will explore how the CLS can be more effectively mainstreamed in ADB operations.

MODERATOR:

- Mr. Katsuhiko Sato, Regional Secretary, Asia and Pacific Regional Organization, Public Services International (PSI), Philippines

PANELISTS:

- Ms. Annie Geron, Vice President, PSI, Philippines
- Mr. Sebastian Paust, ADB Executive Director for Constituency of Austria, Germany, Luxembourg, Turkey, and the United Kingdom
- Hemantha Withanage, Executive Director, NGO Forum on ADB
- Mr. Xianbin Yao, Acting Director General, Regional and Sustainable Development Department, ADB
- Mr. Momar N'Diaye, Senior Reports Officer Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Department (FPRW/Declaration) International Labour Organization, Geneva

Sunday, 4 May 2008

14.00-16.00

North Convention Centre, Room 105

**Panel Discussion:
Safeguards Protect the Poor –
Why the ADB must Retain and Strengthen its Mandatory Safeguard Policies.**

ADB has indicated that the Safeguard Policy Statement (SPS), issued in October 2007, aims to respond to the changing situation in Asia and borrowers needs and at the same time improve the clarity of the existing policies. Many CSOs are concerned that due to the proposed flexibility, the SPS draft does not provide the intended clarity but rather results in vague provisions that are likely to undermine the purpose of the safeguard policies.

The objective of this panel – organized by Oxfam Australia - is to provide a space for exchange between different stakeholders on the key issues around the Safeguard Policy Update (SPU). The speakers will present their views on the ongoing SPU process. Key questions discussed will include how safeguards policies can be developed so that they provide clarity for implementation and at the same time protect the needs of affected people. Consideration will also be given to the introduction of country systems and the proposed framework approach in the SPS draft.

Panel participants:

MODERATOR:

- Mr. Michael Simon, Advocacy Coordinator, Oxfam Australia

PANELISTS:

- Mr. N.J. Ahmad, Director, Environmental and Social Safeguard Division, ADB
- Mr. Patrick Brandt, Alternate Executive Director representing Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, The Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden, ADB
- Mr. Ted Downing, Research Professor of Social Development, University of Arizona
- Ms. Stephanie Fried, Senior Scientist, International Program, Environmental Defense
- Ms. Joanna Levitt, Co-Director, International Accountability Project
- Ms. Titi Soentoro, Finance Campaigner, NADI (Indonesia)

Monday, 5 May 2008

14.00-16.00

North Convention Centre, Rooms 115-116

Promoting Real Alternatives: Long-term Energy Imperatives in Asia and the ADB

The climate crisis is forcing a fundamental rethink regarding energy-related development pathways, models, and regional strategies. How enduring the resolution of this debate will depend largely on the extent to which dimensions of sustainable energy, energy security and justice are integrated into long-term development strategies in the region. There is an urgent need to put in place policies preferential to the rapid deployment of renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency programs in Asia, leveraging the right investments that can address both the development aims and energy security needs of developing countries in the region, as well as contribute significantly to helping avert climate change.

As an institution attempting to reshape its long-term relevance in the region and whose very existence, to a growing number of peoples across Asia, many CSOs believe that ADB needs to fundamentally change the directions that its energy-driven operations have taken thus far – on the basis of the huge and still growing commercial potential of sustainable energy-anchored development. This panel will answer what needs to be done, how, and by when.

MODERATOR:

- Mr. Michael Simon, Advocacy Coordinator, Oxfam Australia

PANELISTS:

- Ms. Natalia Ablova, Director, Bureau of Human Rights and Rule of Law (Kyrgyz Republic)
- Mr. S. Chander, Deputy Director General, Private Sector Operations Department, ADB
- Mr. Longgena Ginting, Campaigns Coordinator, Friends of the Earth International
- Mr. Jose Luis Garcia Ortega, Climate Campaign Manager, Greenpeace Spain
- Representative of the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21)

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NGO and Civil Society Center in Madrid

The NGOC will maintain an office in the Neptuno Room of the North Convention Centre 2–6 May, and staff will be available to respond to queries from CSO representatives about the Annual Meeting.

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