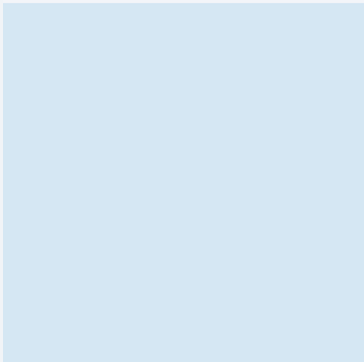


2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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MISSION

- To stimulate public awareness and action as well as develop closer working ties with People's 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 the 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENER

Dear Colleagues and Partners,

As we gather for the Forum Annual Meeting 2024, I am filled with a renewed sense of purpose and urgency. In these challenging times, our collective action remains indispensable in advocating for human rights, environmental justice, and equitable development across Asia.

This year, our discussions extend beyond the ADB to include the broader international financial landscape, particularly the AIIB and Chinese overseas financing initiatives. These institutions, alongside others, are increasingly shaping the development trajectory of our region. However, the social, environmental, and economic impacts of these financial flows are often felt most acutely by vulnerable communities.

Moreover, we must consider the shifting dynamics of global finance, including the shrinking dominance of the Dollar and the potential introduction of a new BRICS currency. These developments could profoundly affect the economic landscape in which we operate, and it is crucial that we stay informed and proactive in our advocacy.

Our forum has always served as a critical platform for amplifying the voices of those most affected by these policies and projects. We must ensure that the ADB, AIIB, and other financiers, including those from China, remain accountable to the communities they impact.

This year's meeting is particularly significant as we engage in strategic dialogues on the new policies and directions of these institutions. We will focus on the urgent issues of just transition, climate justice, and safeguarding community rights. Additionally, we recognize the growing challenges of obtaining visas, which makes it increasingly difficult for our members to participate in international forums. It is vital that we activate more members and explore new ways to ensure their voices are heard, despite these obstacles.

I urge each of you to contribute actively, share your insights, and collaborate in shaping the outcomes of our discussions. Together, we must challenge the status quo, advocate for systemic change, and push for a development model that prioritizes people over profits.

Let us harness our collective strength to build a more just, sustainable, and inclusive future for all, ensuring that all international financial institutions are held to the highest standards of accountability and transparency.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment and dedication.

In solidarity,

Hasan Mehedi
International Committee
NGO Forum on ADB



ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Throughout the past year, the NGO Forum on ADB has spearheaded a series of robust engagements with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), focusing on critical issues ranging from energy transition and accountability mechanisms to the environmental impact of large-scale infrastructure projects. As a coalition of civil society organizations committed to promoting transparency, accountability, and sustainable development, the Forum has played a pivotal role in advocating for policy reforms and ensuring community voices are heard in the decision-making processes of the ADB.

PROJECT MONITORING

Rupsha 800-Megawatt Combined Cycle Power Plant Project
Project Number: 50161-003
Country: Bangladesh

The Rupsha 800 MW project in Bangladesh faces significant opposition due to its potential environmental impacts near the Sundarbans, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This mangrove forest is crucial for protecting nearby communities from natural disasters. The project threatens the ecosystem with pollution, habitat destruction, and potential oil spills, endangering species like the Bengal tiger and Irrawaddy dolphin.

Additionally, the project's escalating costs raise concerns about financial burdens on the Bangladeshi government, with critics suggesting renewable energy as a more sustainable and cost-effective alternative.



The Rupsha 800-Megawatt Combined Cycle Power Plant. Photo from flenco.com.



The South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Road Connectivity.
Photo from sasec.asia.



Locals of Tharon village, Thangmeiband, Imphal West, urged the state chief minister and MLAs to exclude their village from the proposed ADB-funded Ring Road construction in Greater Imphal.
Photo from cramanipur.wordpress.com

Kolkata Environmental Improvement Investment Program

Project Number: 42266-013
Country: India

The Kolkata Environmental Improvement Investment Program (KEIIP) faces several challenges, including delays due to bureaucratic hurdles, funding constraints, and technical issues, which hinder its effectiveness. Concerns also arise about the environmental impact of projects like sewage treatment plants and drainage networks, which may disrupt ecosystems and cause pollution. Social displacement and community disruption due to land acquisition and resettlement further complicate the program. Financial sustainability is another issue, as securing ongoing funding for maintenance is uncertain. Additionally, governance and transparency issues, such as corruption and inefficiencies, undermine public trust and program effectiveness.

South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Road Connectivity Investment Program

Project Number: 47341-004
Country: India

The South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Road Connectivity Investment Program raises concerns about its impact on Loktak Lake in Manipur, India. Enhancing road connectivity near the lake may lead to habitat destruction, water pollution, and ecosystem disruption. Construction activities

and increased human traffic could harm biodiversity and water quality. The project might also exacerbate soil erosion and sedimentation, reducing the lake's water storage capacity and ecological health. Additionally, improved connectivity may lead to increased human encroachment and unsustainable development around the lake, further threatening its conservation.

SASEC Road Connectivity Investment Program specifically the Imphal Ring Road Project

Project Number: 47341
Country: India

The Imphal Ring Road Project, part of the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Road Connectivity Investment Program, faces significant challenges and criticisms. Concerns include potential displacement of residents, environmental degradation, and increased pollution due to construction activities. Additionally, there is a perceived lack of meaningful consultation with local communities, hindering transparency and trust. Questions about the project's sustainability and its ability to deliver long-term benefits also persist, emphasizing the need to align outcomes with socio-economic and environmental goals and avoid exacerbating existing inequalities.

Tanahu Hydropower Project

Project Number: 43281-013
Country: Nepal

The Tanahu Hydropower Project in Nepal faces significant challenges, including potential environmental impacts like habitat loss, river ecosystem alterations, and deforestation. Local communities, including the Magars, fear biodiversity loss and adverse effects on flora and fauna. The project may also cause social displacement due to reservoir formation, disrupting traditional livelihoods. Robust resettlement efforts are needed to address these concerns and prevent social unrest. Financial viability is another issue, with risks of cost overruns and delays threatening the project's economic sustainability.

Mahaweli Water Security Investment Program

Project Number: 47381-001
Country: Sri Lanka

The Mahaweli Water Security Investment Program in Sri Lanka faces several challenges. Environmental concerns include ecosystem disruption, altered water flow, and biodiversity loss. Critics worry about water scarcity and impacts on existing water sources without proper safeguards. Construction of dams and reservoirs may lead to habitat loss and wildlife displacement. Social challenges include potential displacement of communities, requiring robust

resettlement efforts. Financial sustainability is also a concern, with risks of cost overruns and funding shortages threatening the program's long-term viability.

Ulaanbaatar Urban Services and Ger Areas Development Investment Program

Project Number: 45007-003
Country: Mongolia

The Ulaanbaatar Urban Services and Ger Areas Development Investment Program in Mongolia faces significant challenges, including inadequate urban services in ger areas, insufficient funding, logistical issues, and bureaucratic hurdles. Poor infrastructure and limited access to clean water and sanitation hinder progress. Financial constraints and funding shortages impact essential projects like roads and water supply systems. Logistical challenges, such as land tenure issues and stakeholder coordination, complicate implementation. Bureaucratic inefficiencies slow decision-making, while socio-economic factors like poverty and unemployment exacerbate poor living conditions in ger areas.

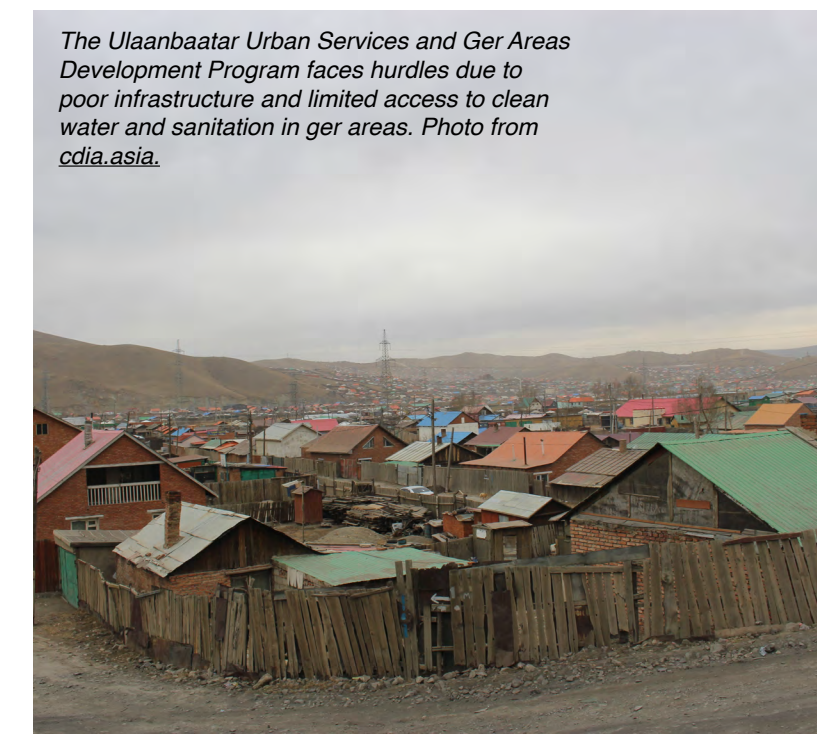
Proposed Indorama Agro Project

Project Number: 56258-00
Country: Uzbekistan

The ADB approved a loan to Indorama Agro for investing in the cotton farming sector in Uzbekistan.



The Kolkata Environmental Improvement Investment Program.
Photo from keiip.in.



The Ulaanbaatar Urban Services and Ger Areas Development Program faces hurdles due to poor infrastructure and limited access to clean water and sanitation in ger areas. Photo from cdia.asia.

The project aimed to promote mechanized cotton harvesting and implement environmental and operational enhancements. Despite this, the project faced several red flags, including deficiencies in environmental and social impact assessments and a lack of stakeholder engagement. The EBRD's assessment identified non-compliance with performance standards on various aspects, including impact assessment, workers' health, and stakeholder engagement. Additionally, the project documentation lacked comprehensive information on risk mitigation measures and failed to address concerns raised by civil society organizations and local communities.

The consultation process for the project was criticized for being inadequate, particularly due to its reliance on online formats, which limited participation from affected communities, considering the region's low internet penetration. A subsequent study commissioned by Bankwatch revealed that stakeholders were largely unaware of the project's environmental and social risks, and attempts to gather feedback were met with resistance and threats from local authorities. Concerns raised by stakeholders, including issues related to land acquisition, labor rights violations, and environmental pollution, remained unaddressed.

Furthermore, Indorama Agro's implementation of its Environmental and Social Action Plan was found to be lacking, with failures in ensuring the promised policies and management plans were enacted. The company's response to concerns raised by Bankwatch and Uzbek Forum was defensive and lacked tangible progress. Despite multiple reports of human rights violations and deficiencies in the project, the EBRD proceeded with the loan approval without adequately addressing these issues. The lack of effective due diligence and oversight by the EBRD resulted in continued violations by the client, raising questions about the bank's commitment to environmental and social improvements.

ADB ENGAGEMENTS

Energy and Just Transition Campaign

ADB ETM Emerging Social, Environmental, and Rights-Based Considerations

The year began with the release of the report titled "The Asian Development Bank Energy Transition Mechanism (ETM): Emerging Social, Environmental, and Rights-Based Considerations," co-published by Fair Finance Asia and NGO Forum. This report scrutinized the ADB's ETM, designed to shift Southeast, South, and Central Asian countries away from coal power to alternative sources. It served as a critical resource for monitoring the ETM's implementation and addressed concerns from civil society, communities, and workers' organizations.

Key concerns included governments and companies' insufficient commitment to halt planned or under-construction coal power projects and phase out coal by 2040, as per the Paris Climate Agreement. The report also highlighted ambiguities in applying ADB's social and environmental safeguards at pilot coal power sites, along with gaps in ensuring compliance with international human rights standards.



Moreover, the report criticized the lack of transparency and community involvement in decisions about retiring coal power projects. It raised doubts about defining clean energy options and potential incentives for unsustainable alternatives. Additionally, the report emphasized the need for clear terms and conditions for retiring coal projects to prevent overcompensation of operating companies.

In response, the report proposed initial recommendations, especially for cases involving ADB and its partners, like the World Bank Group, in supporting the coal sector. These recommendations aimed to address gaps in the ETM's implementation, stressing transparency, community engagement, and human rights adherence in transitioning away from coal power.

Engagement with SDCC SARD

After recent challenges arose in discussions regarding the Tanah Hydropower Project, the NGO Forum on ADB conducted a comprehensive review of its engagement approach to enhance effectiveness. This demonstrated the Forum's commitment to ensuring transparency, accountability, and community involvement within the ADB.

Upon encountering translation issues, the Forum recognized the need for improvement. Clearer objectives for ADB meetings, more meaningful community participation, meticulous preparatory work, and strengthened collaboration among NGO advisors were identified as key areas for enhancement. By addressing these issues, the Forum aimed to strengthen its advocacy efforts and maximize impact.

Acknowledging the importance of upcoming high-level discussions, particularly with the US Executive Director (ED), the Forum initiated internal discussions among advisors to define clear roles and responsibilities. This proactive approach underscored the Forum's commitment to streamlining internal processes and optimizing advocacy strategies.

Discussion on the ADB's Guidance Notes on Fossil Gas, WTE, and Large Hydropower

The Forum network and its allies held a hybrid discussion with key ADB officials, including the Senior Director for ADB's Energy Sector Office, the Director of Environment and Safeguards, and a Senior Energy Specialist, to address concerns about the ADB's Guidance Notes on Fossil Gas, Waste-to-Energy (WTE), and Large Hydropower. Civil society organizations (CSOs) like Asia Indigenous Peoples Network on Extractive Industries and Energy (AIPNEE), Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD), CRAM, Ecowaste Coalition, Forum, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) Asia Pacific, International Accountability Project, International Rivers, Rivers without Boundaries, Right Energy Partnership, and Recourse participated, advocating for transparency and accountability in ADB's energy initiatives.

CSOs raised concerns about delays in updating the energy policy guidance notes and lack of feedback on hydropower submissions. They highlighted inconsistencies across sectors and questioned the screening criteria's adequacy in promoting sustainability and social responsibility.

ADB officials acknowledged completion and approval of WTE and natural gas guidance notes, pending public release due to containing ADB-specific information. They committed to incorporating CSO feedback into the hydropower guidance note and emphasized ongoing discussions on screening criteria. CSOs stressed the need for public disclosure of guidance notes and comprehensive screening criteria, including no-go zones and legacy issues.

Looking ahead, CSOs reaffirmed their commitment to engaging with the ADB for inclusive and sustainable energy policies in the Asia-Pacific, emphasizing stakeholder collaboration to address energy development challenges.

Engagement with ADB ETM Team

The Forum Network convened a crucial meeting on June 15, 2023, with ADB ETM team representatives focusing on Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam to discuss progress and challenges in transitioning to sustainable energy practices.

In the Philippines, updates included the CIF ACT Investment Plan's progress and the upcoming Feasibility Study with SESA starting in August. Concerns about transparency and community involvement in project parameters and consultation processes were raised.

In Indonesia, attention was on the Cirebon Environmental and Social Auditing process and ongoing SESA report development. Discussions covered project selection criteria, due diligence timelines, and community engagement strategies.

Vietnam's discussion focused on the Pre-feasibility Study and transition to the Feasibility Study, with concerns about CSO involvement and project clarity. Advocates stressed stakeholder engagement's importance for meaningful participation.

ADB addressed concerns by acknowledging the need for improved communication and commitment to enhancing consultation mechanisms. They reassured stakeholders of adherence to safeguards and emphasized transitioning from polluting

technologies while supporting community well-being and environmental sustainability.

Discussions underscored the importance of a just transition framework, addressing social impacts and community concerns. ADB reaffirmed its commitment to supporting affected communities and balancing economic development with environmental sustainability.

ADB funded Visayas Base-load Power Project Update

A pivotal meeting focused on developments surrounding the Visayas Base-load Power Project convened to enhance transparent engagement and community involvement. Initiated as a follow-up to discussions at the ADB annual meeting, the session aimed to facilitate face-to-face dialogue and ensure stakeholders were well-informed about the case progress.

Strategically timed during the visit of Cebu community representatives attending the Asia Clean Energy Forum (ACEF) and related gatherings on ADB ETM, stakeholders aimed to maximize engagement in Manila. They met with relevant authorities overseeing the Visayas Base-load Power Project.

The meeting demonstrated the ADB's commitment to open communication and respecting community voices in decision-making. By enabling direct engagement between community representatives and project authorities, the session exemplified a collaborative approach to addressing concerns about the ADB-funded project.

ADB and Hydropower Dams

The network also contested the ADB's backing of large hydropower dams in the region. The publication "Uprooting Riparian Communities and Ecologies in the name of a 'Climate Friendly' Future" critically assessed the ADB's role in promoting such projects from 2009 to 2022. It underscored deficiencies in options assessments and evidence-based planning, urging a reevaluation of the ADB's dam project approach.

A launch event for the report discussed its findings and explored strategies for advancing alternative energy solutions that prioritize community well-being and environmental protection.

The Forum Network further engaged on the International Day of Action for Rivers, joining civil society groups across Asia to call for the ADB to overhaul its proposed guidance note on hydropower dam support. This participation underscored the Forum's commitment to advocating for transparent and consultative decision-making processes within the ADB.

Moreover, the Forum played a leading role in urging the ADB to completely revise its proposed Guidance Note on Large Hydropower. By advocating for inclusive consultations with affected communities and civil society groups, the Forum aimed to ensure that the ADB's investments in dam projects prioritize social and environmental sustainability.

ADB Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP)

In response to concerns over the ADB's draft Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP), the Forum network and its allies united to demand a complete overhaul of the proposed plan. They called for urgent alignment with a 1.5°C pathway, urging the ADB to disengage from the fossil fuel industry and refrain from funding environmentally and socially harmful projects.

An open statement directed to ADB Management and the Board of Directors highlighted flaws in the current draft CCAP and urged substantial revisions to meet international climate goals and principles.

The statement emphasized refraining from financing carbon offset schemes, committing to phase out support for fossil fuel-related infrastructure, and terminating partnerships with fossil fuel companies. It also called for clear language adhering to international human rights norms, protecting environmental defenders, and ensuring meaningful consultation processes.

Engagement with OSPF

The NGO Forum congratulated Ms. Imrana Jalal on her appointment as Special Project Facilitator (SPF), acknowledging her role in enhancing safeguards and accountability at the ADB. As advocates for strong governance, the Forum eagerly anticipated engaging under her leadership. Over the past year, they advocated for a comprehensive review of the ADB's Accountability Mechanism Policy, emphasizing genuine engagement and mitigating reprisal risks. With Ms. Jalal leading, the Forum aimed to establish an independent SPF office aligned with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.



Visayas Base-load Power Project in Naga, Cebu.



The Forum network engaged in dialogue with the SPF office on pivotal projects and initiatives, emphasizing transparency, accountability, and efficacy within the ADB's operations.

Discussions focused on the Tanahu Hydropower Project, involving introductory emails, teleconferences with OSPF, complainants, NGO advisers, and sessions with SDCC and SARD departments. Coordination with OT Watch on Mongolia's Urban Services and Ger Areas Development Investment Program provided insights into resolving past complaints.

Safeguard Campaign

ADB HQ Lobby Week

The Forum network and allies conducted a Lobby Week at ADB headquarters from March 29th to April 5th, 2023, to address critical concerns about ADB practices and policies. Throughout the week, stakeholders highlighted inadequacies in ADB's environmental sustainability and regional development approaches. Despite ADB's assertions

of commitment to sustainable development, participants pointed out significant challenges and shortcomings in its initiatives.

Discussions began with SDCC, where participants questioned ADB's effectiveness in promoting environmental sustainability. Key figures like the Chief of Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management and the Senior Project Officer from the Regional Cooperation and Integration Unit of Central and West Asia, along with the Principal Energy Specialist, heard skepticism about ADB's impact on climate change and sustainable development.

Meetings with Bebet Gozun, Chair of the Compliance Review Panel, and Imrana Jalal, Principal Social Development Specialist (Gender and Development), allowed the network to discuss ADB's deficiencies in community engagement. Concerns were raised about the lack of genuine community involvement in ADB projects, emphasizing the need for meaningful participation to ensure socially responsible development.

Stakeholders also engaged ADB management, including the United States ED and Alternate Executive Director, about ADB's policy shortcomings, energy portfolio, and the adverse impacts of ADB-funded projects on local communities. Despite attempts to downplay concerns, stakeholders persisted in advocating for greater accountability and transparency in ADB operations.

Project-specific discussions on the Indonesia Geothermal Power Generation Project and the Bangladesh Rupsha 800 MW highlighted harmful consequences for affected communities. The Forum Network reiterated the importance of ADB prioritizing social and environmental safeguards to prevent exacerbating inequalities and environmental degradation.

In a critical meeting with the European Union Constituency, the Forum network emphasized the urgency of implementing robust safeguards and facilitating a just transition in ADB-funded projects. This meeting underscored the shared commitment among stakeholders to hold the ADB accountable for its actions and to advocate for development practices that prioritize social justice, environmental protection, and inclusive growth.

ADB Releases Draft Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) for Public Feedback

After a series of consultations attended by the Forum network and allies, the ADB released the draft Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) to the public on September 7, 2023, and will hold consultations to obtain feedback. The ESF is a proposal by the ADB that will establish mandatory performance standards for clients or borrowers throughout the project cycle. It consists of four parts: Vision, Environmental and Social Policy, Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs), and Prohibited Investment Activities List.

The ESF will replace the following ADB policies, which were established in 1995, 1998, and 2002, respectively: the Involuntary Resettlement Policy (1995), the Policy on Indigenous Peoples (1998), and the Environment Policy (2002).



Forum network and allies convene for the planning meeting of the ADB Lobby Week 2023.



The Forum network and allies at the ADB Headquarters meeting with the Safeguards Team during the ADB lobby week 2023.

ADB ASIAN CLEAN ENERGY FORUM (ACEF)

The Asian Clean Energy Forum (ACEF) 2023 Protest, held on June 13, 2023, at ADB Headquarters in Ortigas, Pasig, was a powerful call for environmental justice and accountability. Around 300 individuals from organizations like the NGO Forum on ADB, APMDD, CEED, FDC, and 350.org gathered to address concerns regarding ADB-funded energy projects.

Throughout the event, speakers including Larry Pascua from PMCJ and Miriam Azurin from GAIA voiced concerns over the environmental and social impacts of these projects. Teody Navea from Ecowaste emphasized sustainable waste management, while Angelica Dacanay from CEED stressed the shift towards renewable energy sources. Leaders like Rovik Obaniil from FDC, Tita Flor from K4K, Chuck Baclagon from 350.org, and Aaron Pedrosa from Sanlakas echoed these calls for greater accountability and transparency in ADB investments.

Despite the absence of ADB representatives, the protest proceeded smoothly, highlighting the unity and determination of participants. The lack of ADB engagement underscored ongoing challenges in fostering meaningful dialogue and accountability in energy development.

Global Solidarity

The event in Ortigas was not an isolated event. Similar demonstrations took place in other regions, amplifying the collective demand for change. In Khulna, Bangladesh, activists staged a powerful protest against the Rupsha 800 MW LNG Power Plant, highlighting the threats posed to local livelihoods and the Sundarban Mangrove Forest. Meanwhile, in Bangladesh, advocates rallied in front of the Reliance Meghnaghat 718 MW LNG Power Plant, urging ADB and AIIB to prioritize decentralized renewable energy projects in alignment with Bangladesh's Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan.

Meanwhile, in Barishal, Bangladesh, Prantojon Trust, CLEAN, and the NGO Forum on ADB joined forces to stage a powerful human chain



demonstration. Their message was clear: the ADB must divest from gas and other false solutions and redirect its investments toward renewables.

The call for action echoed the sentiments of the people of Bangladesh, who are demanding immediate and decisive steps to combat climate change. By urging the ADB to prioritize renewable energy financing, they are not only advocating for a sustainable future but also asserting their right to environmental justice and prosperity.

ADB Annual Meeting 2023

The Forum network held two panels at the 2023 ADB Annual Meeting in Incheon, South Korea. The first panel, titled 'Challenging Ways Forward: Asserting Communities' Considerations on Just Transition,' was co-produced with GAIA-AP, Indus Consortium, Trend Asia, and APMDD. It focused on the impacts of ADB-supported projects on communities and emphasized the need for meaningful community engagement in the ADB's



Forum network and allies in front of the ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines during the Asia Clean Energy Forum 2023.



Forum network executive director, Rayyan Hassan during the Meeting between Civil Society Organizations and ADB Senior Management at the ADB Annual Meeting 2023.

Energy Transition Mechanism. Discussions highlighted the importance of transparency, local language accessibility of project information, and adherence to the 1.5°C climate trajectory. Vice-President Ahmed Saeed and ADB's climate change director Noelle O'Brien acknowledged shared goals with CSOs on just transition and climate action.

The second panel, '**Approaching the Last Mile for a Strong Safeguard Policy,**' co-organized with Accountability Counsel, reviewed the implementation of ADB's environment and social safeguards. Panelists, including Radhika Goyal, discussed challenges in safeguard implementation across projects in Indonesia, Nepal, and the Philippines. ADB's safeguards director Bruce Dunn committed to addressing CSO concerns and enhancing stakeholder engagement in the upcoming Safeguard

Policy update. Discussions also covered youth engagement, incinerator standards, and the importance of do-no-harm principles in ADB's operations.

Additionally, the Forum participated in a meeting with **ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa and other CSOs during the Annual Meeting.** CSOs emphasized the importance of climate ambition, community protection, and inclusive development in ADB's policies. Youth ambassadors and CSO representatives presented statements urging ADB to prioritize youth voices, decarbonize its energy portfolio, and strengthen safeguards against community reprisals. President Asakawa acknowledged these concerns and pledged continued dialogue and collaboration with CSOs to achieve sustainable development goals.

Forum Network International Committee members Titi Soentoro from Aksi! for Gender, Social, and Ecological Justice (Indonesia) and Dr. Rene Ofreneo from Freedom from Debt Coalition (Philippines) stand outside the event hall at the ADB Annual Meeting, participating in the protest against ADB and its investments in gas.



Forum network and allies at the ADB Annual Meeting 2023 in Incheon, South Korea.



ASIAN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT BANK

Over the past year, the Forum has led significant engagements with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), addressing crucial issues such as issues on infrastructure development, project-affected people's mechanism, and the environmental and social impacts of major investment projects. As a network of civil society organizations dedicated to transparency, accountability, and sustainable development, the Forum has been instrumental in advocating for policy reforms and ensuring that community voices are integral to the AIIB's decision-making processes.

PROJECT MONITORING

Bangalore Metro Rail Project - Line R6
Project Number: P000038
Country: India

The Bangalore Metro Rail Project, initiated in 1994 to alleviate traffic congestion and promote urban development, has encountered hidden costs despite its progress. Spanning 42.3 kilometers, the project includes Line-6, funded by the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the AIIB. However, nearing completion, the project has revealed significant challenges. Land acquisition, managed by the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB), marginalized communities like slum dwellers and small shopkeepers from compensation plans outlined in the Draft Bengaluru Transit-Oriented Development Policy of 2019.

The project has disrupted lives and businesses, causing substantial loss of livelihoods and income. Environmental impacts such as loss of green cover, increased air pollution, and safety risks to workers

Bangalore Metro Project funded by the EIB, the project's completion reveals hidden costs, including extensive land acquisition and disruptions to marginalized communities. Photo from India.com.



have also surfaced. Displacement due to land acquisition has further fragmented communities.

As Bangalore strives to evolve into a smart city, stakeholders like BMRCL, ADB, and AIIB must confront these issues. They need to address overlooked costs and consequences, prioritizing the preservation of Bangalore's cultural heritage, environment, and community well-being in its development plans.

Bhola IPP
Project Number: P000057
Country: Bangladesh

The NGO Forum on ADB, with CLEAN, filed a robust complaint against AIIB over the Bhola IPP project in Bangladesh, citing serious issues of transparency, coercion in land acquisition, environmental devastation, and negligence.

AIIB failed to disclose crucial project details promptly, with poorly translated documents hindering comprehension. Consultation reports were allegedly ignored, casting doubt on the process's integrity. Middlemen appointed by NBBL reportedly coerced, defrauded, and intimidated Hindu communities.

Environmental impacts include riverbed siltation at Mandartoli Shakha Khal, causing flooding and destroying Betel leaf farms. Over 2,000 families lost access to essential services, with grazing lands critical for women goat herders under threat. Effluent discharge from the Labor Colony has made communities uninhabitable.

Efforts to engage NBBL and AIIB have faltered amid worsening conditions over three years, worsened by the pandemic. Originally seen as a development driver, the project has strayed, necessitating urgent action to rectify injustices. Immediate investigation and corrective measures are crucial to restore justice, transparency, and accountability.

Unique Meghnaghat 584MW Combined Cycle Power Plant
Project Number: P000281
Country: Bangladesh

The Meghnaghat Power Plant, a 584MW LNG-based project in Bangladesh, once seen as a symbol of progress, now faces significant financial uncertainties. Approved in 2018 with backing from AIIB and others, the project's costs have soared without clear justification. With Bangladesh already having surplus energy capacity, there are concerns it could become a stranded asset, draining government resources.

Environmental worries include its high gas consumption and carbon emissions, contradicting global climate goals. Allegations of land acquisition issues and inadequate compensation for locals further mar the project's reputation.

Calls are mounting for AIIB to reconsider its financing, with advocates in Bangladesh urging a



shift to decentralized renewable energy projects for long-term sustainability. They emphasize the need for responsible investment aligned with sustainable development goals over short-term gains.

As Bangladesh navigates this critical juncture, the fate of the Meghnaghat Power Plant poses questions about its role in national progress and global sustainability efforts.

Cambodia PRASAC COVID-19 | Crisis Recovery Facility & Cambodia Emergency and Crisis Response Facility
Project Number: PD000562 & P000614
Country: Kingdom of Cambodia

The AIIB is under intense scrutiny for its recent involvement in Cambodia's microfinance sector, sparking concerns about human rights abuses. Despite ongoing complaints, the AIIB proceeded with substantial loans to major players like PRASAC Microfinance Institution Plc. (now KB Prasac Bank) and ACLEDA Bank Plc., drawing sharp criticism from civil society groups.

Cambodia's microfinance industry, fueled by international investments, has witnessed a surge in predatory lending practices and unsustainable levels of household debt. Shockingly, many borrowers find themselves indebted for more than their annual earnings, often risking their land titles as collateral.

PRASAC, ACLEDA, and other lenders have come under fire for their coercive lending practices, resulting in dire consequences such as debt-driven child labor and land dispossession. These unethical practices highlight the urgent need for reform within the AIIB's Environmental and Social Framework, which currently falls short in addressing such critical issues.

Without immediate action, AIIB's investments in Cambodia's microfinance sector risk exacerbating the suffering of the country's most vulnerable communities. It's imperative for the AIIB to implement comprehensive reforms to prevent further human rights violations and ensure the protection of Cambodian borrowers.

AIIB ENGAGEMENTS

Participation in Wind Power Projects: Challenges and Good Practices

The Forum actively participated in the Wind Power Projects: Challenges and Good Practices seminar organized by the AIIB, in collaboration with the Multilateral Cooperation Center for Development Finance (MCDF) and the ADB. This seminar provided a platform to address the environmental and social complexities surrounding wind energy investments, focusing on opportunities and challenges in both onshore and offshore projects.

Key issues discussed included impacts on biodiversity, community resources, and mitigation strategies. Through presentations and discussions, participants shared insights and best practices for managing environmental and social risks effectively. The event, catering to a diverse audience, adopted a hybrid format, facilitating both in-person and online participation. The Forum's engagement contributed to advancing dialogue on sustainable development practices in renewable energy. Overall, the seminar highlighted the importance of robust safeguards and collaboration to ensure the responsible implementation of wind power projects and foster a more sustainable energy future.

Forum Urges AIIB to Reconsider Participation in ADB ETM

In the ongoing global effort to combat climate change, the transition away from fossil fuels has become a critical imperative. However, recent initiatives proposed by the ADB, such as the ETM, have raised significant concerns among civil society groups. In response, the Forum and its allies have addressed a letter to the AIIB, urging caution and reconsideration of participation in the ETM. The ETM, conceived by the ADB, aims to repurpose or decommission selected coal power projects, ostensibly as part of a broader transition to low-emission energy options. While this initiative appears promising on the surface, civil society groups have

raised valid concerns regarding its effectiveness, transparency, and potential consequences.

One of the primary concerns articulated in the letter to AIIB President Jin Liqun is the questionable selection methodologies employed by the ADB in choosing pilot projects for the ETM. Critics argue that the process lacks transparency and logical reasoning, leading to arbitrary selections that do not prioritize the most impactful projects for repurposing or decommissioning.

Moreover, there are concerns about the potential risks associated with the ETM, including the perpetuation of fossil fuel dependency through the support of coal power operating entities. While the ETM aims to facilitate a transition to renewable energy sources, critics argue that it may inadvertently prolong the lifespan of coal-fired power plants, delaying the transition to a sustainable energy future.

Transparency and public accountability in the ETM process are also highlighted as areas of concern. Civil society groups criticize the limited access to information and the absence of meaningful

stakeholder engagement, particularly among affected communities and workers. Without robust mechanisms for transparency and public participation, the ETM risks exacerbating social and environmental injustices.

Furthermore, the letter warns against the potential implication of the AIIB in instances of reprisals and retaliation against critics of the ETM. Civil society groups emphasize the need for safeguards to protect those who raise legitimate concerns about the ETM process, particularly in politically sensitive environments.

The letter urges the AIIB to refrain from participating in the ETM and similar coal repurposing plans. Instead, civil society groups advocate for alternative solutions that prioritize investment in non-resource-intensive renewable energy options. By heeding these concerns and redirecting its energy sector support, the AIIB can play a crucial role in accelerating the transition to a sustainable and equitable energy future.

The letter is endorsed by a coalition of civil society organizations from across the globe, reflecting a unified call for caution and responsible decision-making in the pursuit of energy transition initiatives.

As the world grapples with the challenges of climate change, collaboration between financial institutions, governments, and civil society is essential to charting a path towards a cleaner, greener future.

New Leadership at AIIB's CEIU

Mr. Taylor-Dormond assumes a pivotal role as Managing Director of the Complaints-resolution, Evaluation, and Integrity Unit (CEIU) at the AIIB, reinforcing the bank's commitment to accountability. Civil society organizations, representing affected communities, warmly welcome his leadership, emphasizing its importance in promoting a culture of learning and redress within the AIIB.

Over the years, Forum network have actively engaged with the AIIB and CEIU, leveraging their experiences to advocate for policy reforms. Despite notable achievements like the Project-Affected People's Mechanism (PPM), challenges persist, particularly regarding

accessibility and the handling of cases. Barriers to eligibility and insufficient transparency have hindered affected individuals from holding the AIIB accountable, prompting ongoing advocacy for reform.

Mr. Taylor-Dormond's appointment signals a new opportunity for dialogue and collaboration to address these challenges. Civil society organizations seek a meeting with him to discuss priorities and enhance the PPM's effectiveness. They aim to contribute to discussions at the AIIB's Annual Meeting in Sharm El Sheikh, fostering transparency and justice in the bank's development agenda.

Emphasizing their readiness to support Mr. Taylor-Dormond and the CEIU, civil society organizations pledge to work towards a robust accountability framework at the AIIB. Their engagement reflects a shared commitment to sustainable and inclusive development across the AIIB's operational areas.

Vidya Dinker from Growthwatch and Hasan Mehedi from CLEAN raise concerns with AIIB Managing Director Marvin Taylor-Dormond regarding Bangalore Metro Rail in India and Bhola IPP in Bangladesh at the AIIB Annual Meeting 2023.



Forum network and allies at the AIIB Annual Meeting 2023 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.



Highlights from the AIIB Annual Meeting 2023, showcasing Forum members and allies actively holding the Bank accountable.



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AIIB Annual Meeting 2023

The 2023 Annual Meeting of the AIIB marks a significant milestone for the Forum Network as it amplifies its advocacy efforts for transparency, accountability, and meaningful engagement. With the event taking place in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, the Forum Network sees this as an opportune moment to spotlight critical issues surrounding AIIB-funded projects.

At the forefront of this initiative is the launch of the 'AIIB Observer,' a tabloid dedicated to showcasing the stories of communities impacted by AIIB-funded projects. With a mission to provide a platform for voices often marginalized, the 'AIIB Observer' aims to shed light on the realities faced by communities affected by the bank's development initiatives. Readers are encouraged to grab their copies to gain insight into the experiences of those directly impacted by AIIB-funded projects.

In addition to the 'AIIB Observer,' the Forum Network unveils its latest publication titled 'ADB and AIIB Fossil Fuel and Gas Legacy in Asia.' Collaborating with organizations such as CLEAN, CEED, and Indus Consortium, this report delves into the environmental and social impacts of AIIB-funded fossil fuel projects in countries like Thailand, the Philippines, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. Through

eye-catching infographics and comprehensive analysis, the report highlights AIIB's role in shaping the trajectory of these projects and underscores the need for sustainable development practices.

During the AIIB Annual Meeting, the NGO Forum on ADB participates in the "CEIU Forum with CSOs and NGOs," engaging in discussions surrounding the work of the Complaints-resolution, Evaluation, and Integrity Unit (CEIU) and the challenges faced by civil society and affected communities in accessing the Project-affected Peoples' Mechanism (PPM). This platform serves as an opportunity to advocate for greater transparency and accountability within the AIIB's operations.

A notable highlight of the meeting is the introduction of "Lessons Learned: Filing Bhola IPP Complaint in AIIB's Project Affected Peoples' Mechanism" by CLEAN and the Forum. This brief explores the complexities surrounding the first-ever complaint against AIIB, focusing on the Bhola Gas Power Plant (Bhola IPP) and its impact on affected communities. The document provides valuable insights into the challenges faced in seeking redress for grievances related to AIIB-funded projects.

A significant moment during the AIIB Annual Meeting occurs as AIIB Management is captured reading the 'AIIB Observer' during the "Management Dialogue with CSOs and NGOs." This gesture symbolizes a pivotal turning point in the collective

effort to hold the bank accountable for its actions. By engaging with the 'AIIB Observer,' AIIB Management acknowledges the importance of amplifying the voices of those affected by the bank's projects and underscores the commitment to responsible financing practices.

Forum Network's advocacy efforts at the 2023 AIIB Annual Meeting reflect a steadfast commitment to promoting transparency, accountability, and social

responsibility within the realm of development finance. Through initiatives like the 'AIIB Observer' and publications highlighting the impacts of AIIB-funded projects, the Forum Network continues to champion the voices of affected communities and drive meaningful change in the pursuit of sustainable development.



AIIB President Jin Lique engages in a discussion with a member of the affected community regarding the Bangalore Metro rail project, which is funded by AIIB.



Forum Network IG Chair Hasan Mehedi from CLEAN explains the detrimental impacts of the Unique Meghnaghat 584MW Combined Cycle Power Plant in Bangladesh and advocates against AIIB funding for the project.



Forum Network executive director Rayyan Hassan presents the 'AIIB Observer' to the Bank's board and management, highlighting it as a compilation of firsthand accounts from communities affected by AIIB-funded projects.



OTHER ACTIVITIES

Operational Planning and Retreat in Sundarbans

In a serene setting amidst the Sundarbans in Bangladesh, the Forum secretariat held its operational planning and retreat. This gathering aimed to reflect on past achievements, address pending tasks, and plan for the future. The retreat began with individuals sharing their accomplishments from 2022 and identifying tasks left unfinished. Discussions revolved around improving coherence between programs and finances, enhancing fund utilization, and overcoming challenges in plan implementation. The secretariat also discussed their roles and identified staffing needs. They evaluated their Terms of Reference (TORs), shared passions, and discussed ways to improve alignment with organizational goals.

The focus then shifted to setting goals and targets for 2023. Emphasis was placed on maintaining relevance at the national level, engaging with financing institutions, and strengthening communication strategies.

The retreat concluded with the planning of activities and budget requirements for the 2023 Operational Plan. Important events for the coming year, such as workshops and engagements with financial institutions, were identified, presenting opportunities to advance the Forum's mission. As the retreat ended, participants left with a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to advancing the Forum's goals. Armed with insights from the retreat, the Secretariat is ready to tackle the challenges of the coming year and work towards the networks goals.



Forum Network secretariat gathers in the Sundarbans for a retreat and operational planning session in 2023.

Philippine Working Group (PWG)

In 2023, the Forum Network Philippine Working Group (PWG) saw a significant revival led by the Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC). Comprising diverse organizations dedicated to monitoring the ADB and AIIB, the PWG renewed its commitment to accountability in development finance.

After a period of dormancy, the PWG reemerged with a focused mission: to serve as a collaborative platform for advocacy, holding multilateral development institutions accountable. Under the leadership of the Freedom from Debt Coalition, it united various organizations striving for transparency, accountability, and social justice.

The PWG monitors ADB and AIIB policies, projects, and practices through research, analysis, and advocacy, ensuring adherence to human rights, environmental sustainability, and equitable development. By pooling expertise and resources, PWG members amplify their impact and influence, conducting joint campaigns, policy dialogues, and public engagement initiatives to raise awareness and mobilize support.

At its core, the PWG advocates for accountability through targeted campaigns, policy interventions, and stakeholder engagement, aiming for reforms that promote transparency, responsiveness, and inclusive development outcomes.

The PWG's reactivation marks a milestone in advancing accountability and social justice in development finance. With a diverse coalition, it stands as a potent force for positive change in the Philippines and the wider region, advocating for accountability and advancing social and environmental justice.

Just Transition Roundtable Discussion

The Forum on ADB participated in the Just Transition Roundtable Discussion (RTD) organized

by the FDC, Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ), Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM), Integrated Rural Development Foundation, and Fair Trade Alliance – Philippines.

Led by Dr. Rene Ofreneo of FDC, Mr. Ian Rivera of PMCJ, and Ms. Beckie Malay and Mr. Edicio dela Torre of PRRM, the RTD convened experts, activists, and civil society representatives. It provided a platform for diverse perspectives on transitioning to a greener and more equitable Philippine economy.

During the RTD, the network actively discussed critical sectors such as agriculture, energy, industry, and communities, contributing expertise and insights. This reflects the network's commitment to advocating for sustainable development practices and fostering collaboration among stakeholders.

Celebrating International Women's Day 2023 with Music

In commemoration of International Women's Day, the NGO Forum on ADB orchestrated a unique celebration, blending advocacy with the universal language of music. Under the theme "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality," the network amplified the voices of girls and women worldwide through the power of music.

Recognizing music's remarkable ability to transcend barriers and inspire change, the Forum invited remarkable women in its network to contribute to a special playlist. This playlist celebrated their tireless efforts in shaping a world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination.

Network members were encouraged to share the songs that had been sources of strength and inspiration throughout their advocacy journeys. They were asked to provide links to their chosen music, the names of the artists, and the lyrics or segments of the songs that resonated deeply with them and why. Whether it was a stirring anthem, a soulful melody, or an invigorating rhythm, each musical selection had the power to uplift and motivate other

women and girls. The campaign embraced the richness of cultural diversity by welcoming songs in various native languages.

The initiative commenced on March 1, 2023, and concluded on March 8, 2023, International Women's Day. The completed playlist was then shared with the global network and beyond, spreading positive energy and empowering melodies far and wide. Through the enchantment of music, International Women's Day became a truly unforgettable celebration of strength, resilience, and empowerment. Women came together to create a harmonious melody of empowerment that reverberated across borders and generations, uniting them in their shared pursuit of gender equality.

Advocating Against Fossil Gas Expansion in Asia

Forum on ADB, in collaboration with CLEAN (Bangladesh), Trend Asia (Indonesia), and Indus Consortium (Pakistan), spearheaded the insightful webinar titled "Locking Asia into Fossil Gas."

The primary objective of this event was to raise awareness and mount pressure on MDBs to cease funding the expansion of fossil gas, including LNG, in the Asian region.

Scheduled ahead of the World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings in Washington DC, the webinar, organized by the NGO Forum on ADB with technical support from Recourse and Big Shift Global, provided a crucial platform to delve deeper into the policies of the World Bank Group contributing to the proliferation of fossil gas in Asia. Moreover, it aimed to empower civil society by exploring actionable steps to curb this concerning trend.

The event also provided an opportunity for participants to engage actively in discussions surrounding the detrimental impacts of fossil gas expansion on climate change, environmental degradation, and social injustice. By fostering dialogue and knowledge-sharing, the webinar facilitated the exchange of ideas and strategies to address this pressing issue effectively.

Forum Network's joins Financing Just Energy Transitions: The Importance of Ensuring Civic Space in Addressing the Climate Crisis

The Forum network teamed up with International Rivers (IR) and partners for an important project called 'Financing Just Energy Transitions: the Importance of Civic Space in Tackling the Climate Crisis.' This initiative highlights our commitment to fair energy transition plans and protecting civil society's role in facing climate challenges.

Given the growing climate and biodiversity crises, it's crucial to protect space for environmental defenders. They should be able to advocate for nature and their communities freely, without fear. The collaboration between the Forum network and International Rivers is a positive step in this direction, giving a voice to #EnvironmentalDefenders and helping them make real changes.





Forum network joins Southeast Asia's Energy Transition event

CSOs from different parts of Asia came together at the 'Southeast Asia's Energy Transition' event, organized by the Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED) and Solution For Our Climate (SFOC), with the NGO Forum also participating. This gathering aimed to delve into the region's evolving energy landscape, providing a platform for activists, experts, and concerned citizens to share insights and ideas. Against the backdrop of pressing environmental concerns and the urgent need for climate action, attendees discussed ways to move towards a sustainable energy future.

The event served as a call to action, prompting stakeholders to collectively address the complex challenges facing Southeast Asia's energy sector. Discussions focused on finding a balance between energy security, economic growth, and environmental sustainability. Through exchanging knowledge and experiences, participants explored innovative approaches such as renewable energy integration and energy efficiency measures. By

fostering collaboration and dialogue, the event laid the foundation for coordinated efforts to drive transformative change in the region's energy sector.

Asian Conference on Finance

Representatives from the Forum network joins the 'Asian Conference on Finance' hosted by the APMDD in Manila, Philippines. This event gathers members and partners of APMDD from across Asia to discuss pressing issues in finance, development, and climate action.



CSOs from across Asia gather at the 'Southeast Asia's Energy Transition' event, organized by CEED and SFOC, with the NGO Forum participating.

The conference focuses on finding solutions to various crises, including economic challenges, environmental degradation, and climate change. It provides a platform for stakeholders to share ideas and collaborate on strategies for economic resilience, inclusive development, and climate action.

Forum on ADB attends 11.11.11 Session on Decolonization

The Forum on ADB recently took part in a session hosted by 11.11.11 focused on decolonization. This event brought together experts to discuss the urgent need to dismantle colonial legacies and empower marginalized communities.

For the Forum on ADB, attending this session highlights its commitment to addressing issues of exploitation and inequality in development finance. The discussions centered on strategies for challenging power imbalances and promoting alternative approaches to development. The insights gained from this session will guide the Forum's advocacy efforts, pushing for policy reforms and amplifying the voices of affected communities. By working towards decolonization, the Forum aims to create a fairer and more sustainable world for all.

Forum joins "Women's Survival, Resistance, and Resilience"

NGO Forum on ADB engaged in the significant event "Women's Survival, Resistance, and Resilience," organized by the Freedom from Debt Coalition. This gathering shed light on the hurdles faced by women and their remarkable fortitude in overcoming adversity.

During the event, representatives from the NGO Forum on ADB shared insights on how these challenges intersect with development initiatives led by organizations such as the ADB. They emphasized the necessity for inclusive policies that address gender inequality and empower women.



Forum network participate in the 'Asian Conference on Finance' hosted by the APMDD in Manila, Philippines. The event brings together APMDD members and partners from across Asia to address pressing issues in finance, development, and climate action.

As advocates for social justice and gender equality, the NGO Forum on ADB is steadfast in its commitment to supporting women's rights across Asia. The organization pledges to continue collaborating with partners like the Freedom from Debt Coalition to ensure that women's voices are heard and their rights are upheld.

Forum at the 'Mapping Pathways Toward Sustainable Renewable Energy in the Philippines'

Forum network together with over 50 advocates from energy justice, environmental justice, and climate justice movements came together for a critical discussion titled "Mapping Pathways Toward Sustainable Renewable Energy in the Philippines." This event, organized by the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center and supported by Oxfam Pilipinas' I-JET Project, aimed to lay the groundwork for a just energy transition in the country.

The gathering focused on three main objectives: defining the principles of a common framework for Just Energy Transition (JET) and sustainable renewable energy (SRE), developing a reform agenda and policy environment for JET, and mapping key actors and milestones for the SRE movement.

This workshop marks the beginning of a series of activities aimed at building a grassroots movement that prioritizes environmental and social considerations in the transition to renewable energy, particularly SRE with community-centered approaches. The event fostered collaboration towards a shared goal of sustainable and equitable energy transition. It provided a platform for stakeholders to discuss challenges and propose solutions, driving progress towards a cleaner and more inclusive energy future for the Philippines.

Forum participates in Just Energy Transition Webinar

Forum actively participated in the “Towards Clean, Inclusive, and Equitable Systems: Just Energy Transition in the Philippine Context” webinar. This learning session served as a platform to delve into crucial concepts and principles surrounding Just Energy Transition, shedding light on potential obstacles while showcasing ongoing efforts in the Philippines.

The webinar aimed to introduce attendees to the fundamental concepts and principles underpinning Just Energy Transition, a pivotal aspect of transitioning towards a more sustainable and

equitable energy system. By exploring these key ideas, participants gained a deeper understanding of the complexities and challenges inherent in this transition process. Moreover, the webinar provided a forum to identify potential obstacles that may impede progress towards achieving a just and equitable energy transition in the Philippine context. Through open dialogue and discussion, participants had the opportunity to share insights and perspectives, fostering a collaborative environment conducive to problem-solving and innovation.

Forum’s active participation in SAEC

The Forum recently attended the South Asia Energy Colloquium (SAEC), a gathering focused on driving change in the region’s energy landscape. Hosted under the theme “Igniting Change in South Asia,” SAEC brought together activists to discuss challenges related to fossil fuels and false solutions, and to chart pathways for sustainable energy.

Organized by the Centre For Environmental Justice (CEJ) - Sri Lanka, Growthwatch - India, and CLEAN Coastal Livelihood and Environmental Action Network - Bangladesh, SAEC aimed to exchange

Forum network participating at the South Asia Energy Colloquium (SAEC) in Nepal.



campaign experiences and address pressing energy issues. At the Energy Literacy Training in Kathmandu, Nepal, the Forum participated in discussions on energy transition pathways and strategies for a fair transition.

Forum Network engages in Renewable Energy Forum

The Forum network joined the “Accelerating Renewable Energy: Challenges and Opportunities” event, hosted by the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center - Kasama sa Kalikasan (LRC-KsK) and SOS Yamang Bayan Network. This important forum aimed to address hurdles in the Philippines’ move towards sustainable energy.

From regulations to technology and financing, the forum explored key areas to unlock renewable energy’s potential in the Philippines. By identifying challenges and opportunities, participants contributed to shaping policies for a more sustainable energy future.

The Forum network’s involvement highlights its commitment to sustainable development. By participating in events like this, the Forum network plays a key role in advancing dialogue and advocating for environmental sustainability and

social equity in energy. Insights from the forum will guide the Forum network’s future initiatives, supporting the Philippines’ transition to renewable energy. Through collaboration, stakeholders can overcome obstacles and embrace opportunities for a brighter, greener future.

Participation in APWLD’s Regional Convening on Financing for Feminist Development Justice

NGO Forum on ADB attended the Regional Convening on Financing for Development Issues and Concerns Towards Financing for Feminist Development Justice, organized by the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) and the Center for Women’s Resources (CWR) Philippines.

The Convening provided a platform for feminist groups and intersectional movements to exchange insights on Financing for Development. Participants discussed current trends and global discourses, aiming to connect grassroots and national concerns with global processes. The event also aimed to shape feminist demands and strategies for a regional campaign on Financing for Development Justice.

Forum network at the Mapping Pathways Toward Sustainable Renewable Energy in the Philippines.



The participation of the NGO Forum on ADB in this event highlighted its commitment to advocating for gender-responsive development policies. Insights from the Regional Convening will guide the NGO Forum on ADB's advocacy efforts, informing initiatives to promote feminist development justice within the context of financing for development.

Forum Network joins safeguarding the Independent Accountability Mechanisms

Forum and allies call on the Independent Accountability Mechanisms Network (IAMnet) to safeguard the independence of Independent Accountability Mechanisms (IAMs). This issue is critical for justice and accountability in internationally financed projects. In a joint effort, the Forum, alongside its members and allies, penned a letter to the IAMnet members, urging them to uphold the autonomy of IAMs, particularly amid escalating threats observed in recent years.

IAMnet has served as a vital platform for IAMs for over two decades, providing capacity building and legitimacy to its members. However, concerns have arisen regarding the increasing interference with the independence of IAMs by management entities.

The letter highlights several troubling instances of interference that directly challenge the autonomy of IAMs.

The joint effort represents a diverse coalition of organizations and advocates committed to ensuring that IAMs can operate independently and effectively in holding institutions accountable for their actions. By advocating for the autonomy of IAMs, the Forum network and its partners strive to protect the rights of communities affected by internationally financed projects and uphold principles of justice and accountability worldwide.

NGO Forum on ADB joins the Regional Infrastructure Monitoring Alliance (RIMA) Conference

The RIMA Conference 2023, held from October 26-28, 2023, at the Goldi Sands Hotel in Negombo, Sri Lanka, provided an in-depth analysis of various economic, social, and geopolitical issues faced by countries within the Asia-Pacific region. The conference focused on key themes such as the influence of Chinese investments, the role of civil society, and the impact of large-scale infrastructure projects.



The conference highlighted significant concerns regarding high-interest rates on microcredits, which have led to a vicious cycle of debt and numerous suicides.

A detailed session explored Chinese economic growth pre- and post-COVID-19, including the role of state-run enterprises and infrastructure development strategies. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was emphasized as a major driver of Chinese economic influence, despite resulting social injustices and economic uncertainties.

China's participation in global summits such as the G7 and G20, and its strategic investments in the Global South, were discussed. New foreign policies and laws to secure supply chains and address corruption were also covered.

The shift towards platform economies and the challenges of youth unemployment were explored. Government efforts to stimulate the property market and the implications of these policies were examined.

Challenges faced by civil society organizations (CSOs) in the context of Chinese political reforms and surveillance were discussed. The role of civil society in international forums and the importance of transparency and anti-corruption measures were emphasized.

China's significant investments in technology and infrastructure in countries like the Philippines, Cambodia, Thailand, and Indonesia were highlighted. The impact of Chinese defense technology and military aid in the region was also examined.

Sri Lanka's experience with Chinese investments was discussed, highlighting issues such as unviable projects and geopolitical struggles. The role of civil society in advocating for transparency and rights amidst these challenges was underscored.

Detailed accounts of Chinese investments in the coal sectors of India, Indonesia, and the Philippines were provided. The environmental and social impacts of these investments, including community displacement and the struggle for land rights, were discussed.



Forum joins Just Transition in South Asia - Role of the Big Economies at COP28

The Forum on ADB participated in the “Just Transition in South Asia - Role of the Big Economies” event during COP28 in Dubai, emphasizing the importance of ambitious renewable energy targets. This gathering called upon big economies to commit to concrete actions, aiming for 60% global electricity from renewables.

At COP28, stakeholders convened to discuss advancing renewable energy in South Asia. The Forum on ADB reiterated its dedication to promoting sustainable development and advocating for robust initiatives to tackle the climate crisis. The urgent call for ambitious targets echoed throughout COP28, emphasizing the need for swift action amidst escalating climate impacts. The Forum on ADB urges all stakeholders, particularly big economies, to prioritize renewable energy transition for a more sustainable future.



Forum actively participated in COP28 in Dubai, advocating for communities impacted by ADB and AIIB-funded projects. Their mission: stand up for community rights, drive change, demand financial accountability.

Forum's joins the No to PUV Modernization Press Conference

The Forum network actively participated in the “No to PUV Modernization” press conference organized by Sanlakas, and FDC, marking a significant engagement in advocating for the rights and concerns of public utility vehicle (PUV) operators and drivers. The press conference, which took place amidst ongoing discussions and initiatives surrounding the modernization of public transportation in the Philippines, provided a platform for stakeholders to voice their opposition to certain aspects of the proposed modernization plan. The Forum's presence at the event underscores its commitment to representing the interests of various stakeholders, including marginalized communities and workers in the transportation sector. By attending the press conference, the Forum demonstrated its dedication to fostering dialogue and advocating for inclusive policies that prioritize the welfare of all stakeholders.



The Forum network participates in the 'No to PUV Modernization' press conference organized by Sanlakas and FDC, advocating for the rights of PUV operators and drivers amidst ongoing discussions on transportation modernization in the Philippines.





FORUM ANNUAL MEETING

The Forum Annual Meeting (FAM) 2023 convened on August 8th and 9th at the Holiday Inn Silom Bangkok, uniting stakeholders dedicated to advancing sustainable development in Asia. Over the two days, participants engaged in discussions, workshops, and panel sessions aimed at tackling pivotal challenges and seizing opportunities in the region's development landscape.

The event kicked off with warm introductions and welcoming remarks, setting a collaborative tone for the discussions ahead. Presentations on the Annual Report and Financial Report provided valuable insights into the Forum's activities and financial standing, fostering transparency and accountability.

A highlight of Day 1 was the workshop focusing on the ADB's Safeguards Campaign and Accountability Mechanism. Through interactive sessions and constructive dialogue, participants identified areas for improvement and collaboration, laying the groundwork for impactful advocacy efforts.

Day 2 featured dynamic panel sessions addressing a range of topics, including accountability mechanism cases, ongoing project monitoring, and updates from

Central Asia and the Caucasus. These discussions shed light on challenges and opportunities in project implementation, emphasizing the importance of community engagement and effective monitoring.

The meeting concluded with sessions dedicated to strategic planning, including discussions on the National Strategy on Safeguards, AIIB Working Group Strategy, and Forum Strategy 2030.

Dean Rene Ofreneo delivered closing remarks, expressing gratitude for the collective commitment to sustainable development.

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Dean Rene Ofreneo delivered closing remarks, expressing gratitude for the collective commitment to sustainable development.

As participants departed with renewed energy and



purpose, the Forum Annual Meeting 2023 left a lasting impact, inspiring continued collaboration and action towards a more equitable and sustainable future for Asia.

AIIB Working Group Strategy Meeting

The AIIB Working Group convened for a strategic meeting on August 10th and 11th, 2023, to deliberate on key issues surrounding the bank's operations and engagement strategies. The event, based on notes from a Zoom meeting held on July 20th, 2023, outlined a comprehensive agenda aimed at fostering dialogue, sharing updates, and strategizing for the future.

Day 1 of the meeting, led by facilitators and note-takers from various organizations, commenced with introductions and discussions on the relevance of the AIIB in the current global context, considering factors such as the post-pandemic recovery, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the concept of a Just Transition. Participants delved into the G7/20 context, including financing, debt, and austerity crises, as well as China's overseas finance and bilateral development aid.

Throughout the day, attendees engaged in plenary discussions and updates on various projects, including the Mandalika, Rogun Hydropower,

and Unique Meghnaghat initiatives. There were also updates on resettlement concerns research and tracking of the Financial Intermediary (FI) portfolio and capital market financing. The day concluded with discussions on the expansion of the Accountability Framework and a focus on communication strategies and beyond. Day 2 continued with plenary discussions on key concerns about the current energy sector strategy, including false solutions and fossil fuel finance. Participants explored topics such as climate change action plans, Paris alignment, and intersection with biodiversity targets. Breakout groups allowed for deeper dives into specific advocacy areas, including the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and energy advocacy.

The meeting concluded with the collective calendar for the year ahead, outlining timelines for various activities, including the AIIB Annual Meeting, COP, and World Bank Spring Meeting. Attendees reflected on the discussions and outlined the next steps to ensure continued collaboration and progress.

The AIIB Working Group Strategy Meeting served as a platform for robust discussions, knowledge sharing, and collaboration among stakeholders. As the AIIB continues its mission of infrastructure development, such gatherings play a crucial role in shaping strategies and advocacy efforts to ensure accountability, transparency, and sustainability in the bank's operations.

NGO FORUM Strategy 2030 Workshop

After a year and a half of preparation and data gathering for the Forum Network Strategy 2030, the workshop to finalize the strategy finally commenced on March 27 and 28, 2023, at Astoria Plaza, Ortigas, Metro Manila. It marked a significant milestone in the organization's journey towards shaping its future trajectory. Combining in-person and virtual participation, the event convened stakeholders from diverse backgrounds to deliberate on crucial issues, strategize for the future, and foster collaboration in pursuit of common goals.

Setting the Stage: Presentation of the White Paper

The workshop commenced with the presentation of the White Paper, a comprehensive document meticulously crafted by consultants to guide the Forum in formulating its Strategy 2030. Delving into key assessment points and trends in financing by institutions like the ADB and the AIIB, the White Paper laid the groundwork for strategic planning discussions.

Crafting Strategy 2030: Assessments and Reflections

Throughout the event, participants engaged in sessions aimed at assessing the Forum's work, identifying strategic gaps, and exploring avenues for future action. The deliberations encompassed a wide array of topics, including strategic assessments, theory of change, key assessment points, and ways forward.

◎ Plenary Sessions: Fostering Dialogue and Collaboration

Plenary sessions provided a platform for robust discussions and exchanges of ideas among participants. From questioning the underlying paradigms of power to exploring the Forum's vision and relevance, each session fostered critical reflection and deepened collective understanding.

◎ Key Themes and Recommendations

Several key themes emerged from the discussions,

including the need for a clearer vision, strengthening community engagement, enhancing gender-sensitive approaches, and advocating for accountability mechanisms. Participants also emphasized the importance of broadening the Forum's membership network and building alliances to amplify impact.

◎ Roadmap for Action: Recommendations and Resourcing Plan

Based on the insights gleaned from the workshop, participants formulated concrete recommendations and resourcing plans to guide the Forum's activities moving forward. These included updating position papers, disseminating key messages through films and videos, and strengthening advocacy efforts at both national and international levels.

◎ Looking Ahead: Next Steps and Reflections

As the workshop concluded, participants reflected on the progress made and charted a course for the future. Important considerations included finalizing the new Vision-Mission-Goal framework, identifying strategies for engagement with different regions, and conducting organizational diagnostics to support institutional development.

◎ Closing Remarks and Acknowledgments

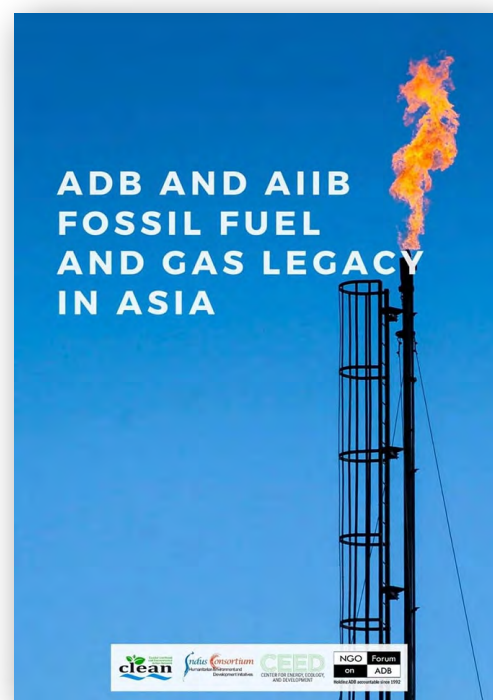
In his closing remarks, Rayyan Hassan, Executive Director of the NGO Forum on ADB, expressed gratitude to all participants for their contributions and commitment. He commended the efforts of the organizing team, facilitators, and consultants for their dedication in ensuring the success of the workshop.

The NGO FORUM Strategy 2030 Workshop was not just a meeting of minds but a collective endeavor to shape the future of advocacy and activism in the region. As participants departed with renewed vigor and clarity of purpose, the echoes of their discussions reverberated, signaling the beginning of a new chapter in the Forum's journey towards social and environmental justice.

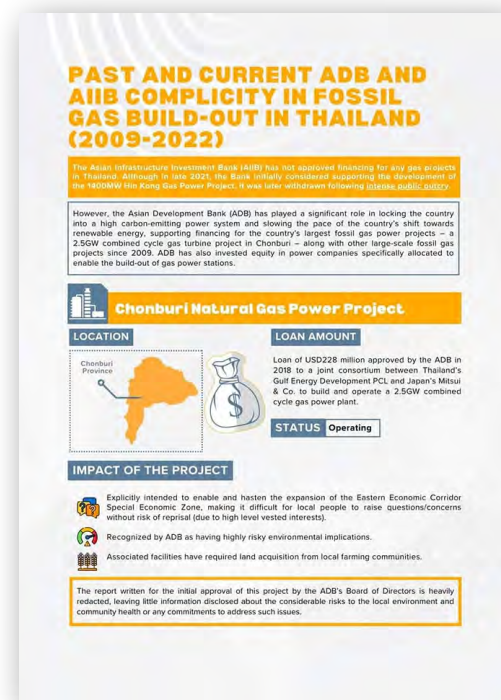
The Strategy 2030 was released 15 January 2024.



PUBLICATION



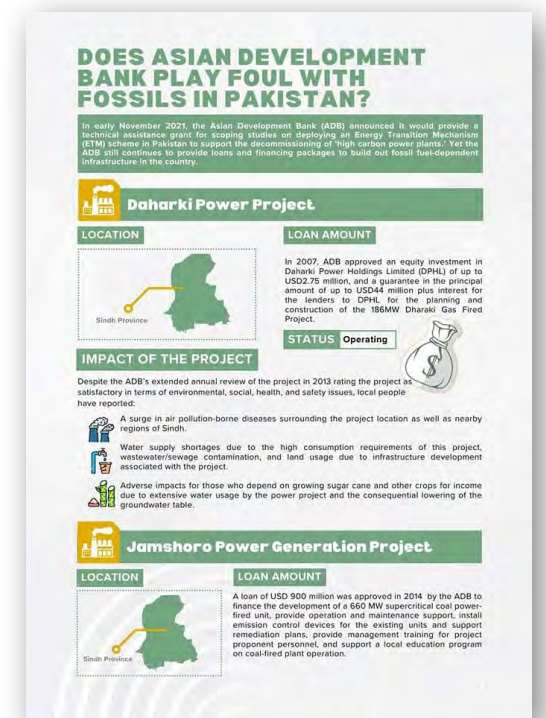
ADB and AIIB Fossil Fuel and Gas Legacy in Asia



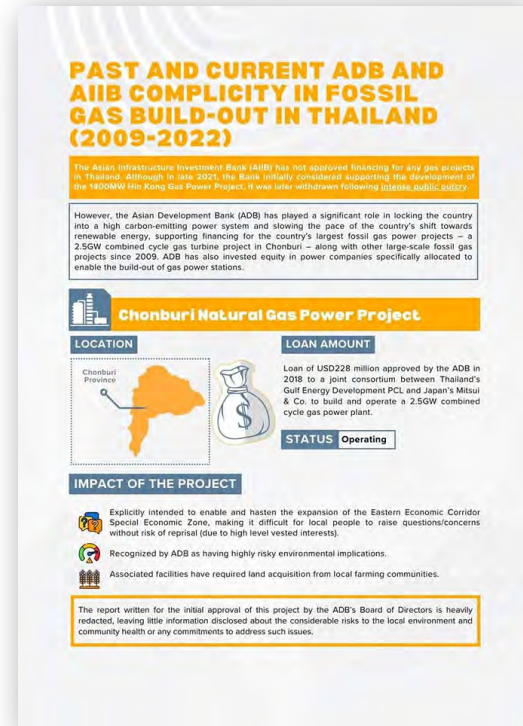
Past and Current ADB and AIIB Complicity in Fossil Gas Build-Out in Thailand (2009-2022)



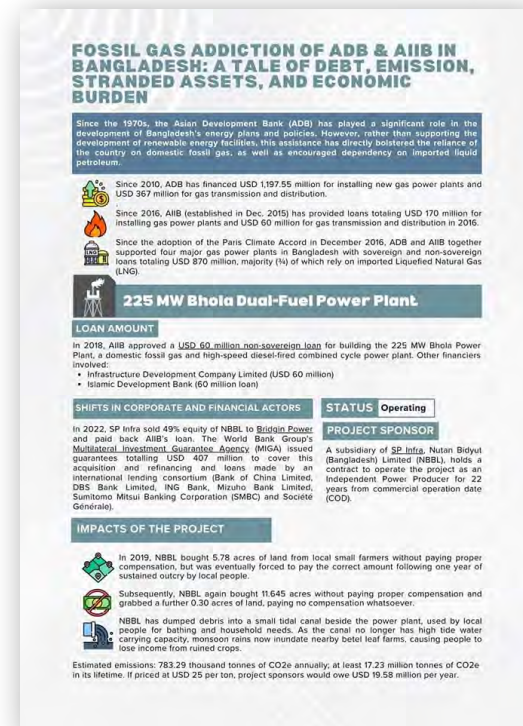
Financing a Fossil Future: ADB's Gas Investments in the Philippines



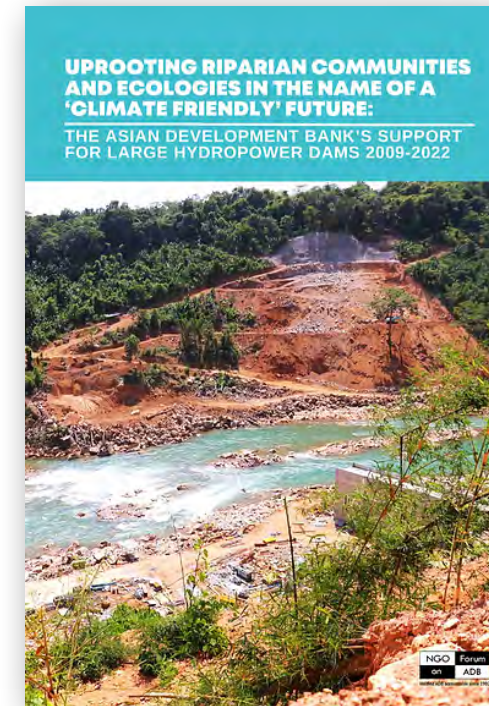
Does the Asian Development Bank Play Foul with Fossils in Pakistan?



Past and current ADB and AIIB Complicity in Fossil Gas Build-Out in Indonesia (2009-2022)



Fossil Gas Addiction of ADB and AIIB in Bangladesh: A Tale of Debt, Emission, Stranded Assets, and Economic Burden



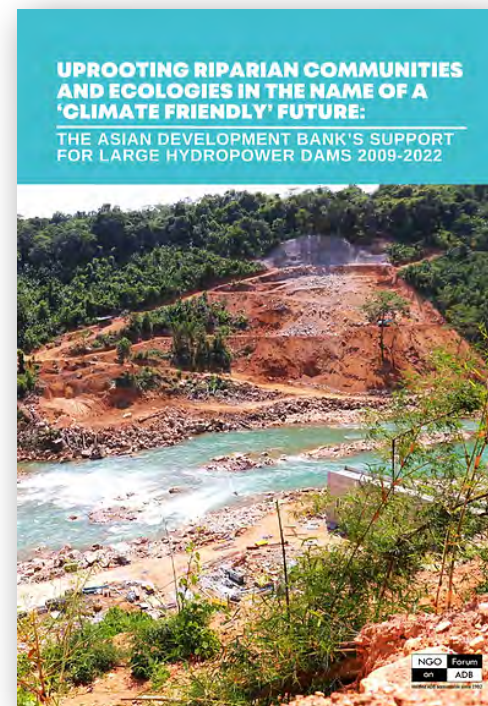
Lessons Learned: Filing Bhola IPP Complaint in AIIB's Project Affected Peoples' Mechanism



AIIB Observer



The Asian Development Bank's Energy Transition Mechanism: Emerging Social, Environmental and Rights-Based Considerations



Uprooting Riparian Communities and Ecologies in the name of a 'Climate Friendly' Future: The Asian Development Bank's Support for Large Hydropower Dams 2009-2022

FINANCE REPORT



NGO FORUM ON ADB, INC.
(a Non-stock, non-profit Organization)

Quezon City, Philippines

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

AND
AUDITORS' REPORT



REDOR, EMERSON & CO.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS



REDOR, EMERSON & CO.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
Phil. Cooperative Center Bldg., 90 Balete Drive Ext., New Manila
Quezon City, Philippines 1112

REECO
Tel. (632) 8722-6005
Email: recpas@yahoo.com
Website: www.redoremerson.com

PRC / BOA Registration No. 0015
Valid until February 11, 2025

**The Board of Trustees / International Committee and
General Membership / Forum Annual Meeting
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, non-profit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2023 and 2022 and the related statement of financial activities, statement of changes in fund balances, and statement of cash flows 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, 2023 and 2022, and its financial performance and cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with Philippine Financial Reporting Standards for Small Entities (PFRS for Small Entities).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the 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 Small Entities 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 / International Committee and
General Membership / Forum Annual Meeting
NGO FORUM ON ADB, INC.**
page 2

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.

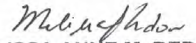
As part of an audit in accordance with PSAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- 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.
- 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 opinion.

REDOR, EMERSON & CO.
Certified Public Accountants

**The Board of Trustees / International Committee and
General Membership / Forum Annual Meeting
NGO FORUM ON ADB, INC.**
Page 3

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.


MELISSA ANNE M. REDOR
Partner
CPA Certificate No. 133174
TIN 401-049-191-000
PTR No. 3486691 dated January 8, 2024
Firm BIR Accreditation No. 07-000057-001-2023
(Validity period: March 21, 2023 – March 20, 2026)
Quezon City, Metro Manila

April 8, 2024

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

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
(in Philippine pesos)

December 31,	Notes	2023	2022
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	11,957,394.69	26,956,677.14
Accounts receivable	7	524,802.51	1,640,803.34
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		12,482,197.20	28,597,480.48
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT - Net	8	257,066.04	302,416.24
OTHER ASSETS			
Miscellaneous deposits/prepayment		281,976.96	878,991.99
TOTAL ASSETS		13,021,240.20	29,778,888.71
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Accounts payables	9	2,161,291.70	5,135,777.72
FUND BALANCES			
General fund		8,339,527.16	7,881,326.75
Restricted funds	17	2,263,355.30	16,459,368.00
Property and equipment fund	8	257,066.04	302,416.24
TOTAL FUND BALANCES		10,859,948.50	24,643,110.99
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		13,021,240.20	29,778,888.71

See Accompanying notes to financial statements

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

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(in Philippine pesos)

Years ended December 31,	Notes	GENERAL FUND	RESTRICTED FUNDS	PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT FUND	2023	2022
REVENUES						
Grants/other donations		-	9,175,480.60	-	9,175,480.60	21,404,551.60
Interest income		7,633.30	-	-	7,633.30	6,813.17
Return expense		1,047,930.84	-	-	1,047,930.84	2,080,804.05
Foreign exchange gain/loss		227,631.30	-	-	227,631.30	2,623,017.55
TOTAL REVENUES		1,283,195.44	9,175,480.60	-	10,458,676.04	26,115,186.37
LESS EXPENSES						
Information Management	11	-	2,481,401.16	-	2,481,401.16	2,111,721.57
Research/Policy Analysis and Publication	12	-	5,112,323.98	-	5,112,323.98	5,802,192.20
Advocacy Support and Network Building	13	616,878.28	11,007,053.13	-	11,623,931.41	9,228,604.29
Capability Building and Internship	14	34,533.25	1,775,732.06	-	1,810,265.31	505,449.59
Personnel	15	-	2,219,724.12	-	2,219,724.12	2,176,648.31
Organizational Expenses	16	5,300.00	775,258.85	-	780,558.85	1,244,590.09
Depreciation	8	-	-	213,633.70	213,633.70	110,944.01
TOTAL EXPENSES		656,711.53	23,371,493.30	213,633.70	24,241,838.53	21,180,150.06
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES		626,483.91	(14,196,012.70)	(213,633.70)	(13,783,162.49)	4,935,036.31
ADD (DEDUCT):						
Interfund transfer - acquisition of equipment	8	(168,283.50)	-	168,283.50	-	-
Fund balances, beginning		7,881,326.75	16,459,368.00	302,416.24	24,643,110.99	19,708,074.66
FUND BALANCES, December 31		8,339,527.16	2,263,355.30	257,066.04	10,859,948.50	24,643,110.99

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 (DEFICIENCY) OF RESTRICTED FUNDS
(in Philippine pesos)

Year ended December 31, 2023	Notes	11.11.11 COALITION	C.S. MOTT FOUNDATION	EUROPEAN CLIMATE FOUNDATION/ TARA	HEINRICH BÖLL FOUNDATION	TOTAL
REVENUES						
Grants/other donations		2,591,329.10	-	4,889,767.22	1,894,384.28	9,175,480.60
TOTAL REVENUES		2,591,329.10	-	4,889,767.22	1,894,384.28	9,175,480.60
LESS: EXPENSES						
Information Management						
Salaries & benefits	11	111,996.00	339,122.00	377,860.00	269,022.00	1,098,000.00
Website/webhosting & other expenses		174,068.64	683,299.10	186,033.42	-	1,023,401.16
Other contracted services		-	92,332.00	107,960.00	159,708.00	360,000.00
Sub-total		286,064.64	1,094,753.10	671,853.42	428,730.00	2,481,401.16
Research/Policy Analysis and Publication						
Other contracted services	12	139,992.00	2,071,249.71	1,133,580.00	-	3,344,821.71
Foreign travel & other expenses		-	1,129,226.27	-	96.00	1,129,322.27
Publication		239,960.00	398,220.00	-	-	638,180.00
Sub-total		379,952.00	3,598,695.98	1,133,580.00	96.00	5,112,323.98
Advocacy Support and Network Building						
Policy review	13	506,602.54	3,845,141.83	1,291,220.15	747,812.79	6,390,877.31
NGO campaign at ADB annual meeting		196,435.87	1,041,773.17	-	-	1,240,208.84
Forum annual meeting		399,243.42	792,213.56	-	-	1,191,456.98
Salaries & benefits		111,996.00	764,894.00	-	215,920.00	1,092,810.00
Other contracted services		111,996.00	130,304.00	809,700.00	40,000.00	1,092,000.00
Sub-total		1,328,273.63	6,574,326.56	2,100,920.15	1,003,532.79	11,007,053.13
Capability Building and Internship						
Skillsshare workshop	14	239,280.23	456,851.83	1,079,600.00	-	1,775,732.06
Sub-total		239,280.23	456,851.83	1,079,600.00	-	1,775,732.06

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

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

Year ended December 31, 2023	Notes	11.11.11 COALITION	C.S. MOTT FOUNDATION	EUROPEAN CLIMATE FOUNDATION/ TARA	HEINRICH BÖLL FOUNDATION	TOTAL
Personnel						
Salaries & benefits	15	167,988.00	790,992.00	377,860.00	188,130.00	1,524,970.00
Legislated benefits		-	308,345.52	-	-	308,345.52
Medical benefits		-	206,408.60	-	-	206,408.60
Other contracted services		12,000.00	141,010.00	26,990.00	-	180,000.00
Sub-total		179,988.00	1,446,756.12	404,850.00	188,130.00	2,219,724.12
Organizational Expenses						
Office rent	16	54,800.00	195,020.00	53,980.00	-	303,800.00
Audit fees & other expenses		40,000.00	65,556.90	26,990.00	-	132,546.90
Utilities		56,320.97	14,984.84	53,249.38	-	124,555.19
Local transportation		23,838.00	59,030.67	-	333.00	83,201.67
Office & equipment supplies		-	36,084.10	26,990.00	-	63,074.10
Postage and communication		-	41,467.75	2,796.00	5,080.00	49,343.75
Taxes, licenses & other expenses		-	10,813.00	-	-	10,813.00
Bank charges		100.00	-	350.87	1,154.63	1,605.50
Reproduction of materials		-	1,215.00	-	-	1,215.00
Representation allowance		-	27.00	-	-	27.00
Miscellaneous		-	5,076.14	-	-	5,076.14
Sub-total		175,058.97	429,276.00	164,356.25	6,567.63	775,258.85
TOTAL EXPENSES		2,588,617.47	13,600,659.59	5,555,159.82	1,827,056.42	23,371,493.30
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES		2,711.63	(13,600,659.59)	(665,392.60)	67,327.86	(14,198,012.70)
ADD (DEDUCT)						
Fund balances, beginning		26,609.16	16,380,536.69	(1,385,328.55)	1,437,550.70	16,459,368.00
FUND BALANCES (DEFICIENCY), December 31, 2023		29,320.79	2,779,877.10	(2,050,721.15)	1,504,878.66	2,263,355.30

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,	Note	2023	2022
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Excess of revenues over expenses		(13,783,162.49)	4,935,036.31
Add (Deduct):			
Depreciation expense		213,633.70	110,944.01
Changes in assets and liabilities:			
Decrease (Increase) in:			
Accounts Receivable		1,116,000.83	(741,431.20)
Miscellaneous deposits/Prepayment		597,015.03	(492,833.16)
Increase (Decrease) in Accounts Payable		(2,974,486.02)	(381,571.15)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		(14,830,998.95)	3,430,144.81
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Acquisition of office equipment	8	(168,283.50)	(121,740.30)
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH		(14,999,282.45)	3,308,404.51
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENT BALANCE			
Beginning of year		26,956,677.14	23,648,272.63
END OF YEAR		11,957,394.69	26,956,677.14

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

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

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(In Philippine Pesos)
December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022

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 Unit J 3rd Floor, La Residencia Building, No.114 Maginhawa Street, Teacher's Village East, Quezon City, Philippines. It has 5 regular staff as of December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements of the Organization have been prepared on the historical cost basis. The financial statements are presented in Philippine Peso, which is the Organization's functional currency, and all values represent absolute amounts except when otherwise indicated.

Statement of Compliance

The financial statements of the Organization as at and for the year ended December 31, 2023 were prepared in accordance with the PFRS for Small Entities (the "Framework") as approved by Financial Reporting Standards Council, Board of Accountancy, and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The Section 29 (Transition to the Framework) of Philippine Financial Reporting Standards for Small Entities has been applied earlier than its mandatory effective date of January 1, 2019, as allowed by the standard itself and the existing SEC rules and regulations.

Financial Reporting Framework

The following sections are the updated accounting standards from the International Accounting Standards Board and adopted to the Financial Reporting Standards Council (FRSC) effective January 1, 2019.

Section 3 – Financial Statement Presentation
Section 5 – Accounting Policies, Estimates and Errors
Section 6 – Basic Financial Instruments
Section 12 – Property, Plant and Equipment
Section 15 – Leases
Section 16 – Provision and Contingencies

Section 18 – Revenue
Section 21 – Impairment of Assets
Section 22 – Employee Benefits
Section 23 – Income Tax
Section 24 – Foreign Currency Translation
Section 25 – Events after the End of the Reporting Period
Section 26 – Related Party Disclosures
Section 29 – Transition to the Framework

The adoption of the above sections, upon which the Organization has opted to adopt, did not have any significant effect on the Organization's financial statements. These, however, require additional disclosures on the Organization's financial statements.

Section 3, "Financial Statement Presentation", explains fair presentation of financial statements, what compliance with the PFRS for Small Entities requires, and what a complete set of financial statements for small entities to ensure comparability both with the entity's financial statements of previous periods and with the financial statements of other entities. It sets out overall requirements for the presentation of financial statements, guidelines for their structure and minimum requirements for their content.

Section 5, "Accounting Policies, Estimates and Errors", provides guidance for selecting and applying the accounting policies used in preparing financial statements. It also covers changes in accounting estimates and corrections of errors in prior period financial statements.

Section 6, "Basic Financial Instruments", deals with recognizing, measuring and disclosing basic financial instruments and is relevant to all entities. An entity shall recognize a financial asset or a financial liability only when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. When a financial asset or financial liability is recognized initially, an entity shall measure it at the transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes, in effect, a financing transaction.

Section 12, "Property, Plant and Equipment", prescribes the accounting treatment for property and equipment so that users of the financial statements can discern information about an entity's investment in its property and equipment and the changes in such investment. The principal issues in accounting for property and equipment are the recognition of the assets, the determination of their carrying amounts and the depreciation charges and impairment losses to be recognized in relation to them. An entity shall measure an item of property and equipment at initial recognition at its cost. The cost of an item of property and equipment is the cash price equivalent at the recognition date. If payment is deferred beyond normal credit terms, the cost is the present value of all future payments.

Section 15, "Leases" applies to agreements that transfer the right to use assets even though substantial services by the lessor may be called for in connection with the operation or maintenance of such assets. This section does not apply to agreements that are contracts for services that do not transfer the right to use assets from one contracting party to the other. Its objective is to prescribe, for lessees and lessors, the appropriate accounting policies and disclosure to apply in relation to leases.

Section 16, "Provision and Contingencies", outlines the recognition of provision only when: (a) the entity has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event; (b) it is probably (i.e. more likely than not) that the entity will be required to transfer economic benefits in settlement; and (c) the amount of the obligation can be estimated reliably. Its objective is to ensure that appropriate recognition criteria and measurement bases are applied to provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets and that sufficient information is disclosed in the notes to enable users to understand their nature, timing and amount.

Section 18, "Revenue", prescribes the accounting treatment of revenue arising from certain types of transactions and events. The primary issue in accounting for revenue is determining when to recognize revenue. Revenue is recognized when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the entity and these benefits can be measured reliably. This section identifies the circumstances in which these criteria will be met and, therefore, revenue will be recognized. It also provides practical guidance on the application of these criteria. An entity shall measure revenue at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable.

Section 21, "Impairment of Assets", prescribes the procedures that an entity applies to ensure that its assets are carried at no more than their recoverable amount if its carrying amount exceeds the amount to be recovered through use of or sale of the asset. If this is the case, the asset is described to be impaired and the standard requires the entity to recognize an impairment loss.

Section 22, "Employee Benefits", deals with accounting and reporting by the plan to all participants as a group. It does not deal with reports to individual participants about their retirement benefit rights. An entity shall recognize the cost of all employee benefits to which its employees have become entitled as a result of service rendered to the entity during the reporting period: (a) as a liability (b) as an expense. This section shall be applied in the financial statements of retirement benefit plans where such financial statements are prepared.

Section 24, "Foreign Currency Translation", prescribes accounting for transactions and balances denominated in foreign currencies that are different from the entity's functional currency and use of presentation currency different from the entity's functional currency.

Section 25, "Events after the End of the Reporting Period", defines events after the end of the reporting period and sets out principles for recognizing, measuring and disclosing those events. Events after the end of the reporting period is the date when the financial statements are authorized for issue. Its objective is to prescribe: (a) when an entity should adjust its financial statements for events after the reporting period; and (b) the disclosures that an entity should give about the date when the financial statements were authorized for issue and about events after the reporting period. It also requires that an entity should not prepare its financial statements on a going concern basis if events after the reporting period indicate that the going concern assumption is not appropriate.

Section 26, "Related Party Disclosures", requires an entity to include in its financial statements the disclosures necessary to draw attention to the possibility that its financial position and profit or loss have been affected by the existence of related parties and by transactions and outstanding balances with such parties. An entity shall disclose key management personnel compensation.

Section 29, "Transition to the Framework", applies to a first-time adopter of this Framework regardless of whether its previous accounting framework was full PFRS or PFRS for SMES.

The significant sections and practices of the Organization are set forth to facilitate the understanding of the financial statements:

Financial Assets

Financial assets include Cash and Receivables.

2a. Cash

Cash includes cash on hand; cash in banks and petty cash fund. Cash on hand as of the end of the period were deposited intact. Cash in banks are deposits held at call with banks. The Organization reconciles the books and bank balances regularly as part of its cash monitoring and internal control measures. Petty Cash Fund is used for small payments not covered by checks.

2b. Receivables

Advances

Cash advances were made to officers and personnel who are assigned in the field to carry out program objectives of the various projects of the Organization. Such advances were liquidated against program/project related expenses. The balance represents unliquidated advances as of balance sheet date.

Receivables-Others

These represent amount collectible from individuals and organizations other than those classified as advances.

2c. Other Current Assets

Other current assets include prepayments and deposits which are valued at the lower of cost or net realizable value.

2d. Property and Equipment

Property and equipment are measured initially at its cost. Property and equipment, after initial recognition are stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

The initial cost of property and equipment comprises its purchase price and any cost directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management. These can include the costs of initial delivery and handling, installation and assembly, and testing of functionality.

The following costs are not costs of an item of property and equipment, and the entity recognized them as an expense when they are incurred: cost of opening a new facility, administration and other general overhead costs and borrowing costs.

For financial reporting purposes, duties and taxes related to the acquisition of property and equipment are capitalized. For income tax reporting purposes, such duties and taxes are treated as deductible expense in the year these charges are incurred.

For financial reporting purposes, depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets.

If there is an indication that there has been a significant change since the last annual reporting date in the pattern by which an entity expects to consume an asset's future economic benefits, the entity shall review its present depreciation method and, if current expectations differ, change the depreciation method to reflect the new pattern. The entity shall account for the change as a change in an accounting estimate.

Factors such as a change in how an asset is used, significant unexpected wear and tear, technological advancement, and changes in market prices may indicate that the residual value or useful life of an asset has changed since the most recent annual reporting date. If such indicators are present, an entity shall review its previous estimates and, if current expectations differ, amend the residual value, depreciation method or useful life as a change in an accounting estimate.

An item of property and equipment is derecognized upon disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal. Any gain or loss on derecognition of an item of property and equipment is recognized in profit or loss when the item is derecognized (unless leases requires otherwise on a sale and leaseback) such gain is not recognized as revenue.

Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are recognized initially at fair value. Financial liabilities are recognized when the Organization becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities include Payable - Accrued Expenses and Other Payables.

2e. Payables

Reimbursable Expenses

Other Payables include payables to staff and other entities arising from various reimbursements.

Accrued Expenses

These represent amount owed to individuals and organization which are payable within the normal accounting cycle or on demand. Included in this account are expenses contracted and incurred during the current year but will be paid in the succeeding year.

2f. Other Liabilities

Current Statutory Liabilities

These accounts represent government-required personnel contributions and taxes withheld against salaries. These are intended to be remitted to the respective agencies.

Funds Held in Trust

This account refers to deposits to the Organization's bank accounts which are intended for other individuals or organizations. It is credited when cash is deposited and debited when disbursement is made to the intended party.

Financial Instruments

Date of Recognition

The Organization recognizes a financial asset or a financial liability in the balance sheet when it becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Initial Recognition of Financial Instruments

All financial assets are initially recognized at fair value.

Determination of Fair Value

For all other financial instruments not listed in an active market, the fair value is determined by using appropriate valuation techniques. Valuation techniques include net present value techniques, comparison to similar instruments for which market observable prices exist, options pricing models, and other relevant valuation models.

Impairment of Financial Assets

The Organization assesses at each balance sheet date whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset or group of financial assets is impaired. A financial asset or a group of financial assets is deemed to be impaired if, and only if, there is objective evidence of impairment as a result of one or more events that has occurred after the initial recognition of the asset (an incurred 'loss event') and that loss event (or events) has an impact on the estimated future cash flows of the financial asset or the group of financial assets that can be reliably estimated. Evidence of impairment may include indications that the borrower or a group of borrowers is experiencing significant financial difficulty, default or delinquency in interest or principal payments, the probability that they will enter bankruptcy or other financial reorganization and where observable data indicate that there is measurable decrease in the estimated future cash flows, such as changes in arrears or economic conditions that correlate with defaults.

If there is objective evidence that an impairment loss has been incurred, the amount of the loss is measured as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of the estimated future cash flows (excluding future credit losses that have not been incurred). The carrying amount of the asset is reduced through use of an allowance account and the amount of loss is charged to the statement of income. Interest income continues to be recognized based on the original effective interest rate of the asset. Loans, together with the associated allowance accounts, are written off when there is no realistic prospect of future recovery and all collateral has been realized. If, in a subsequent year, the amount of the estimated impairment loss decreases because of an event occurring after the impairment was recognized, the previously recognized impairment loss is reversed. Any subsequent reversal of an impairment loss is recognized in profit or loss, to the extent that the carrying value of the asset does not exceed its amortized cost at the reversal date.

For the purpose of a collective evaluation of impairment, financial assets are grouped on the basis of such credit risk characteristics as industry, past-due status and term.

Future cash flows in a group of financial assets that are collectively evaluated for impairment are estimated on the basis of historical loss experience for assets with credit risk characteristics similar to those in the group. Historical loss experience is adjusted on the basis of current observable data to reflect the effects of current conditions that did not affect the period on which the historical loss experience is based and to remove the effects of conditions in the historical period that do not exist currently. The methodology and assumptions used for estimating future cash flows are reviewed regularly by the Organization to reduce any differences between loss estimates and actual loss experience.

The Organization first assesses whether objective evidence of impairment exists individually for financial assets that are individually significant. If it is determined that no objective evidence of impairment exists for an individual asset with similar credit risk characteristics and that group of financial assets is collectively assessed for impairment. Assets that are individually assessed for impairment and for which an impairment loss is on continues to be recognized are not included in a collective assessment or impairment.

If, in a subsequent period, the amount of the impairment loss decreases and the decrease can be related objectively to an event occurring after the impairment was recognized, the previously recognized impairment loss is reversed. Any subsequent reversal of an impairment loss is recognized in the statements of income, to the extent that the carrying value of the asset does not exceed its amortized cost at the reversal date.

Derecognition of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities

Financial assets

A financial asset (or, where applicable a part of financial asset or part of a group of similar financial assets) is derecognized when:

- the rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired;
- the Organization retains the right to receive cash flows from the asset, but has assumed an obligation to pay them in full without material delay to a third party under a pass-through arrangement; or
- the Organization has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from the asset and either (a) has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset, or (b) has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset, but has transferred control of the asset.

Financial Liabilities

A financial liability is derecognized when the obligation under the liability is discharged, cancelled or expired. Where an existing financial liability is replaced by another from the same lender on substantially different terms, or the terms of an existing liability are substantially modified, such an exchange or modification is treated as a derecognition of the original liability and the recognition of a new liability, and the difference in the respective carrying amounts is recognized in the statement of income.

Offsetting Financial Instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the balance sheet if, and only if, there is a currently enforceable legal right to offset the recognized amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis, or to realize the asset and settle the liability simultaneously. This is not generally the case with master netting agreements, and the related assets and liabilities are presented gross in the balance sheet.

Impairment of Non-Financial Assets

The Organization assesses as at reporting date whether there is an indication that an asset may be impaired. If any such indication exists, or when annual impairment testing for an asset is required, the Organization makes an estimate of the asset's recoverable amount. An asset's

recoverable amount is calculated as the higher of the asset's or cash-generating unit's fair value less costs to sell and its value in use or its net selling price and is determined for an individual asset, unless the asset does not generate cash inflows that are largely independent of those assets or groups of assets. Where the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount, the asset is considered impaired and is written down to its recoverable amount. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessment of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset. Impairment losses are recognized in the statements of income in those expense categories consistent with the function of the impaired asset.

An assessment is made at each reporting date as to whether there is an indication that previously recognized impairment losses may no longer exist or may have decreased. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount is estimated. A previously recognized impairment loss is reversed only if there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the asset's recoverable amount since the last impairment loss was recognized. If that is the case, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to its recoverable amount. That increased amount cannot exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation and amortization, had no impairment loss been recognized for the asset in prior years. Such reversal is recognized in the statements of income unless the asset is carried at revalued amount, in which case the reversal is treated as revaluation increase. After such a reversal, the depreciation charge is adjusted in future periods to allocate the asset's revised carrying amount, less any residual value on a systematic basis over its remaining useful life.

2g. Provisions and Contingencies

Provisions are recognized when the Organization has a present obligation, either legal or constructive, as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount of the obligation can be estimated reliably. When the Organization expects reimbursement of some or all of the expenditure required to settle a provision, the entity recognizes a separate asset for the reimbursement only when it is virtually certain that reimbursement will be received when the obligation is settled.

The amount of the provision recognized is the best estimate of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at the balance sheet date, taking into account the risks and uncertainties surrounding the obligation. When a provision is measured using the cash flows estimated to settle the present obligation, its carrying amount is the present value of those cash flows.

Provisions are reviewed at each reporting date and adjusted to reflect the current best estimate.

Contingent liabilities and assets are not recognized because their existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the entity. Contingent liabilities, if any, are disclosed, unless the possibility of an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits is remote. Contingent assets are disclosed only when an inflow of economic benefits is probable.

2h. Due To (From)

The Due to (From) account represents the net amount of payable-to over receivable-from other funds of the Organization.

The interfund receivable (payable) accounts resulted from transactions among the various funds of the Organization. These accounts exist only in individual fund balances while these are non-account in the consolidated financial statements.

2i. Fund Balances

To ensure observance of limitations and restrictions placed on the use of resources available to the Organization, the accounts of the Organization are maintained in accordance with the

principles of fund accounting. Fund Accounting is an accounting concept widely used by non-profit organizations. Fund Accounting is defined as a system of recording resources whose use may be limited by donors, granting agencies, governing boards, management, or by law. To keep the books and records in a way that gave recognition to the restrictions set by the donors, some NPOs kept a series of separate funds for a variety of specific purposes. Each fund consists of a self-balancing set of assets, liabilities and net asset accounts.

Fund Accounting assumes that the Organization receives funds under various terms and conditions and may be grouped in various ways based on their intent and purpose and restrictions set by donors and management. It is an accountability or stewardship concept, used principally by NGOs that are legally responsible for seeing that certain funds or assets are used only for specified purposes.

Total fund balances comprise of Operational Fund and Property and Equipment Fund.

Operational Fund

This includes funds received from various funding agencies which are intended for various activities and projects.

Property and Equipment Fund

Property and Equipment Fund represents the transactions pertaining to property and equipment of the Organization. Acquisitions from projects were charged against the respective program/project item where the properties are intended to be used. A corollary entry was made to present the property and equipment as Asset and credited to Property and Equipment Fund. Depreciation was computed on a straight-line method over the estimated useful life of the properties and was charged against the Property and Equipment Fund. The Property and Equipment Fund represents the carrying value of the properties and equipment.

2j. Revenue and Cost Recognition

Revenue is recognized to the extent that is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Organization and the amount of revenue can be reliably measured. However, when an uncertainty arises about the collectability of an amount already included in the revenue, the uncollectible amount, or the amount in respect of which recovery has ceased to be probable, is recognized as an expense, rather than as an adjustment of the amount of revenue originally recognized.

Grants

Grants received are recognized upon receipt. These are considered restricted project funds when specifically restricted by the respective donors.

Donations

These comprised cash donations and contributions that are intended for general purpose determined by management from time to time.

Project Contributions

These are contributions from other organizations in implementing development projects.

Interest Income

Interest income is recognized as the interest accrues.

Other sources

Other sources include incidental income.

2k. Expenses

Direct expenses were charged against the respective program/project/activity. Common/indirect expenses were charged based on the Organization's policy of cost allocation.

2l. Employees' Compensation and Other Benefits

Short-term Benefits

The Organization recognizes a liability net of amounts already paid and an expense for services

rendered by employees during the accounting period. Short-term benefits given by the Organization to its employees include salaries and wages, social security contributions, short-term compensated absences, bonuses and other non-monetary benefits, if any.

2m. Leases

A lease is classified as a finance lease if it transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership. A lease is classified as an operating lease if it does not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership. Operating lease payment are recognized as expense in the statement of income on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

2n. Events After the End of the Reporting Period

Post-year-end events up to the date of the auditor's report that provide additional information about the Organization's position at the balance sheet date (adjusting events) are reflected in the financial statements. Post-year-end events that are not adjusting events are disclosed in the notes to financial statements when material.

2o. Related Party Disclosures

Related party relationship exists when one party has the ability to control, directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, the other party or exercise significant influence over the other party in making financial and operating decisions. This includes: (1) individual owning, directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, control, or are controlled by, or under common control with, the Organization; (2) associates; and (3) individuals owning, directly or indirectly, an interest in the voting power of the Organization that gives them significant influence over the Organization and close members of the family of any such individual.

The key management personnel of the Organization and post-employment benefits plans for the benefit of the Organization's employees, if any, are also considered to be related parties.

The Organization's related parties include the Organization's Key Management. The compensation of the key management personnel of the Organization pertains to the usual monthly salaries and government mandated bonuses; there are no other special benefits paid to management personnel.

3. MANAGEMENT'S SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING JUDGMENTS AND ESTIMATES

Judgments

The preparation of the Organization's financial statements in conformity with Financial Reporting Framework in reference to the Philippine Financial Reporting Standards requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the Organization's financial statements and accompanying notes. The estimates and assumptions used in the Organization's financial statements are based upon management's evaluation of relevant facts and circumstances as of the date of the Organization's financial statements. Actual results could differ from such estimates, judgments and estimates are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Determining Functional Currency

Based in economic substance of underlying circumstances relevant to the Organization, the functional currency has been determined to be the Philippine Peso, which is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the Organization operates and is the currency that mainly influences the prices of the products and services and the cost of providing such products and services.

Repairs and maintenance

Repairs and maintenance incurred by the Organization have not resulted in an increase in the future economic benefit of its property and equipment, therefore charged to operations.

Estimates

In the application of the Organization's accounting policies, management is required to make judgments, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognized in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The following represents a summary of the significant estimates and judgments and related impact and associated risks in the Organization's financial statements.

Evaluation of asset impairment

The Organization assesses the impairment of assets whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. The factors that the Organization considers important which could trigger an impairment review include significant changes in asset usage, significant decline in assets' market value and obsolescence or physical damage of an asset. If such indications are present and where the carrying amount of the asset exceeds its recoverable amount, the asset is considered impaired and is written down to its recoverable amount.

The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's net selling price and value in use. The net selling price is the amount obtainable from the sale of an asset in an arm's length transaction while value in use is the present value of estimated future cash flows expected to arise from the continuing use of an asset and from its disposal at the end of its useful life. Recoverable amounts are estimated for individual assets or, if it is not possible, for the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

In determining the present value of estimated future cash flows expected to be generated from the continued use of the assets, the Organization is required to make estimates and assumptions that may affect property and equipment.

Estimating useful lives of property and equipment

If there is an indication that there has been a significant change since the last annual reporting date in the pattern by which an entity expects to consume an asset's future economic benefits, the entity shall review its present depreciation method and, if current expectations differ, change the depreciation method to reflect the new pattern. The entity shall account for the change as a change in an accounting estimate.

Factors such as a change in how an asset is used, significant unexpected wear and tear, technological advancement, and changes in market prices may indicate that the residual value or useful life of an asset has changed since the most recent annual reporting date. If such indicators are present, an entity shall review its previous estimates and, if current expectations differ, amend the residual value, depreciation method or useful life. The entity shall account for the change in residual value, depreciation method or useful life as a change in an accounting estimate.

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

<u>Category</u>	<u>Number of Years</u>
Office furniture and equipment	3 to 5

Fair Value of Property and Equipment

The Property and Equipment is stated at revalued amount based on the fair value of the property. The valuation was made on the basis of the fair market value determined by referring to the character and utility of the property, and comparable property which has been sold recently in the

locality where the property is located. Management believes that the basis of the fair value is reasonable.

Financial Assets and Liabilities

The Organization requires certain financial assets and liabilities to be at fair value, which requires use of extensive accounting estimates and judgments. While significant components of fair value measurement were determined using verifiable objective evidence (i.e. interest and vitality rates), the amount of changes in fair value would differ if the Organization utilized different valuation methodologies. Any changes in fair value of these financial assets and liabilities would affect directly the statements of income and equity, as appropriate.

Impairment of Non-financial Assets

The Organization assesses the value of the property and equipment which require the determination of future cash flows expected to be generated from the continued use and ultimate disposition of such assets, and require the Organization to make estimates and assumptions that can materially affect the financial statements. Future events could cause the Organization to conclude that property and equipment and other long-lived assets are impaired. Any resulting impairment loss could have a material adverse impact on the Organization's financial condition and results of operations.

The preparation of the estimated future cash flows involves significant judgment and estimations. While the Organization believes that its assumptions are appropriate and reasonable, significant changes in these assumptions may materially affect the Organization's assessment of recoverable values and may lead to future additional impairment charges.

Revenue recognition

The Organization's revenue recognition policies require the use of estimates and assumptions that may affect the reported amounts of revenues and receivables. Differences between the amounts initially recognized and actual settlements are taken up in the accounts upon reconciliation. However, there is no assurance that such use of estimates may not result to material adjustments in future periods.

4. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies

The main purpose of the Organization's principal financial instruments is to fund its operational and capital expenditures. The Organization's risk management is coordinated and in close operation with the Board of Trustees, and focuses on actively securing the Organization's short to medium term cash flows.

The Organization's activities expose it to liquidity risk. The Organization's overall risk management program seeks to minimize potential adverse effects on the financial performance of the Organization. The policies for managing specific risks are summarized below.

Management of Financial Risk

Regulatory Framework

The operations of the Organization are also subject to the regulatory requirements of SEC. Such regulations not only prescribe approval and monitoring of activities but also impose certain restrictive provisions.

Financial Risk

The Organization is also exposed to financial risk through its financial assets and financial liabilities. The most important component of the financial risks is liquidity risk.

Liquidity Risk

Liquidity or funding risk is the risk that an entity will encounter difficulty in raising funds to meet commitments associated with financial instruments. Liquidity risk may result from either the inability to sell financial assets quickly at their fair values; or counterparty failing on repayment of contractual obligation; or inability to generate cash inflows as anticipated.

The Organization maintains cash to meet its liquidity requirements and the Organization maintains adequate highly liquid assets in the form of cash, and other receivables to assure necessary liquidity.

The Organization monitors its cash flow position and overall liquidity position in assessing its exposure to liquidity risk. The Organization maintains a level of cash deemed sufficient to finance operations and to mitigate the effects of fluctuation in cash flows.

Credit risk

The Organization's credit risk is primarily attributable to its receivables. Credit risk is managed primarily through credit reviews and an analysis of receivables on continuous basis. There is no objective evidence yet to set provision for impairment.

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will fail to discharge and obligation and cause the other party to incur a financial loss.

Receivable balances are being monitored on a regular basis to ensure timely execution of necessary intervention efforts.

Market Risk

Market risk is the risk of change in fair value of financial instruments from fluctuation in foreign exchange rates (currency risks) and market interest rates (interest rate risk).

- a. Foreign Currency Risk arises from the change in the value of financial assets and liabilities particularly foreign currency cash and other foreign currency denominated financial assets and liabilities. To mitigate exposure to foreign currency risk, non-PHP cash inflows are also monitored regularly.
- b. Interest Rate Risk. Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Organization is not exposed to significant interest rate risk because it has no financial asset subject to such risk.

5. TAXATION

Income tax

The Organization, as a non-stock, non-profit corporation, is exempt from income tax pursuant to Section 30 (G) of the 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.

6. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

This is accounted for as follows:

	2023	2022
Cash on hand - peso	15,000.00	15,000.00
Cash on hand - (THB 4,185.00)	6,805.31	-
Cash in bank - peso accounts	1,532,074.80	1,284,255.29
-US\$ accounts (\$ 137,671.99 in 2023 and \$397,982.81 in 2022)	7,650,019.47	22,334,795.30
- Euro accounts (Eur 44,791.36 in 2023 and Eur 55,791.36 in 2022)	2,753,495.11	3,322,626.55
TOTAL	11,957,394.69	26,956,677.14

7. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

This consists the following:

	2023	2022
Accounts/Staff advances	512,778.25	1,500,939.86
Other receivables	12,024.26	139,863.48
TOTAL	524,802.51	1,640,803.34

8. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

These are accounted for as follows:

	2023	2022
Equipment, furniture and fixtures cost		
Balance at beginning of the year	565,356.96	443,616.66
Additions	168,283.50	121,740.30
Disposals	(140,340.63)	-
Balance at end of year	593,299.83	565,356.96
Accumulated depreciation		
Balance at beginning of year	262,940.72	151,996.71
Depreciation	213,633.70	110,944.01
Disposals	(140,340.63)	-
Balance at end of year	336,233.79	262,940.72
Net book value, end of year	257,066.04	302,416.24

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

This consists the following:

	2023	2022
Staff	1,320.00	78,806.84
Unreleased checks/withdrawals	-	148,140.00
Other payables	2,159,971.70	4,908,830.88
TOTAL	2,161,291.70	5,135,777.72

10. LEASE AGREEMENT

The Organization renewed its lease agreement in Unit J of La Residencia Building at No. 114 Maginhawa Street, Teacher's Village East, Quezon City to Ms. Lourdes V. Mingo for the office and premises it presently occupies. The lease agreement is for a term of one year from December 23, 2023 to December 23, 2024 renewable upon mutual agreement of both parties.

11. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

This consists the following:

	2023	2022
Salaries and benefits	1,098,000.00	1,457,727.67
Website/webhosting and other expenses	1,023,401.16	623,993.90
Other contracted services	360,000.00	30,000.00
TOTAL	2,481,401.16	2,111,721.57

12. RESEARCH/POLICY ANALYSIS & PUBLICATION

This consists the following:

	2023	2022
Other contracted services	3,344,821.71	-
Foreign travel and other expenses	1,129,322.27	1,424,937.88
Publication	638,180.00	1,870,398.32
Salaries and benefits	-	2,506,856.00
TOTAL	5,112,323.98	5,802,192.20

13. ADVOCACY SUPPORT AND NETWORKING BUILDING

This consists the following:

	2023	2022
Policy review	7,007,455.59	4,084,877.94
NGO Campaign at ADB annual meeting	1,240,208.84	84,654.08
Forum annual meeting	1,191,456.98	2,284,576.78
Salaries and benefits	1,092,810.00	1,028,390.00
Other contracted services	1,092,000.00	1,746,105.49
TOTAL	11,623,931.41	9,228,604.29

14. CAPABILITY BUILDING AND INTERNSHIP

This consists the following:

	2023	2022
Skillshare workshop	1,810,265.31	505,449.59

15. PERSONNEL

This consists the following:

	2023	2022
Salaries and benefits	1,524,970.00	1,523,560.00
Legislated benefits	308,345.52	280,181.68
Medical benefits	206,408.60	192,906.63
Other contracted services	180,000.00	180,000.00
TOTAL	2,219,724.12	2,176,648.31

16. ORGANIZATIONAL EXPENSES

This consists the following:

	2023	2022
Office rent	303,800.00	298,400.00
Audit fees/expenses	132,546.90	142,412.92
Utilities	124,555.19	161,045.25

Local transportation	83,201.67	80,879.82
Office and equipment supplies	63,074.10	21,355.25
Postage & communication	49,343.75	67,071.03
Taxes, licenses and other expenses	10,813.60	16,521.75
Bank charges	1,605.50	3,051.85
Reproduction of materials	1,515.00	980.00
Representation allowance	27.00	150.00
Miscellaneous	10,076.14	10,400.00
Foreign exchange losses	-	442,322.22
TOTAL	780,558.85	1,244,590.09

17. RESTRICTED FUNDS

The Organization is a custodian of funds for humanitarian project 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:

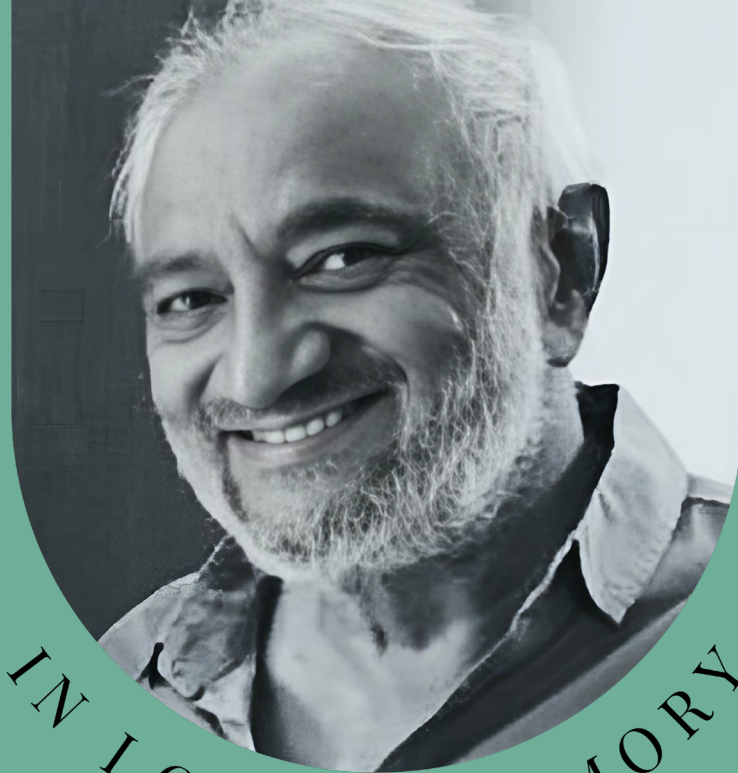
	2023	2022
C.S. Mott Foundation	2,779,877.10	16,380,536.69
Heinrich Boell Foundation	1,504,878.56	1,437,550.70
11.11.11 Coalition	29,320.79	26,609.16
European Climate Foundation/Tara	(2,050,721.15)	(1,385,328.55)
TOTAL	2,263,355.30	16,459,368.00

18. APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements of the Organization for years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 were approved by the board of trustees and authorized for issue on April 8, 2024 and March 29, 2023 respectively.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS





IN LOVING MEMORY

In the realm of activism, few individuals leave a lasting impact that extends beyond their immediate circles, imprinting the world with their dedication and passion. Sreedhar Ramamurthi, the Founder and Managing Trustee of Environics Trust, epitomized this extraordinary commitment to justice and positive change.

With boundless passion and an unwavering commitment to his cause, Sreedhar Ramamurthi inspired all who encountered him. His tireless efforts reached far beyond his local community, leaving a legacy that continues to shape social and environmental justice.

Sreedhar's influence soared during his tenure as a Forum network member and IC Chair from 2018 to 2020. In these roles, he not only advocated for change but also actively contributed to shaping policies and initiatives addressing global community challenges.

As we mourn the loss of this remarkable individual, it is vital to reflect on his legacy and honor his memory. Sreedhar's dedication to activism serves as a beacon of hope, illustrating the transformative impact of individual commitment.

Let us unite in carrying forward the torch of activism ignited by Sreedhar, ensuring that his legacy resonates in our ongoing pursuit of a more just and equitable world. Though he may no longer be with us, his memory remains a source of inspiration for generations to come.

Rest in power, Sreedhar Ramamurthi. Your memory fuels the ongoing fight for a better tomorrow, and your legacy will endure through the continued pursuit of positive change.

POST SCRIPT

2023 was a significant year for the Forum's Safeguards campaign. The ADB's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) review faced an effective pushback campaign from the NGO Forum on ADB. Over the past two years, the Forum has brought to ADB's attention the importance of upfront risk assessment requirements, the disclosure of project information, and binding requirements on borrowers as key issues within the ESF.

Regarding the Energy Policy, the ADB has failed to live up to its coal ban and continues to finance LNG and gas projects. This remains an area requiring critical and sustained civil society engagement to achieve a full fossil fuel phaseout. On the broader issue of Just Transition, ADB is promoting fossil fuel-dependent technologies such as Blue Hydrogen, Ammonia co-firing, and Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS), along with Waste-to-Energy (WTE) incinerators and destructive large hydro and geothermal plants. These false solutions must be challenged, and ADB should be steered towards prioritizing solar and wind technologies in its energy financing agenda.

On the AIIB side, the uphill battle for a gas and LNG phaseout continues, despite the achievement of a coal ban in the energy sector strategy review during the previous grant period. AIIB's ESF delivery remains deeply problematic, particularly regarding project information disclosure at the local level. The AIIB Accountability Framework has granted more power to the AIIB President to approve project loans, bypassing the AIIB Board of Directors, which reduces the Board's influence and changes the nature of our critical CSO engagement. However, on a positive note, the AIIB has recognized the need for better civil society engagement and considers the NGO Forum on ADB as a key leader in critical dialogue. Quarterly virtual CSO sessions with AIIB Operations and Management regarding project and policy issues are now being practiced.

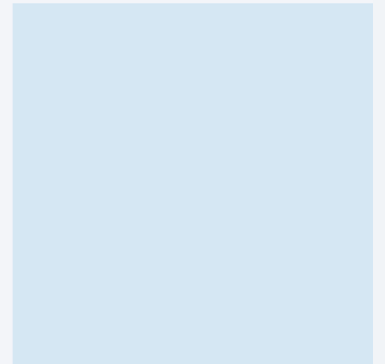
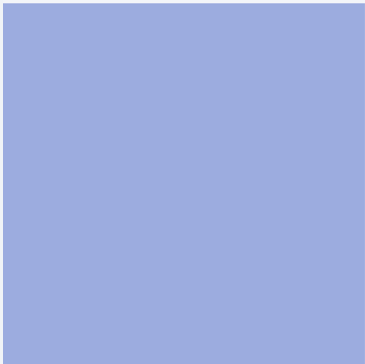
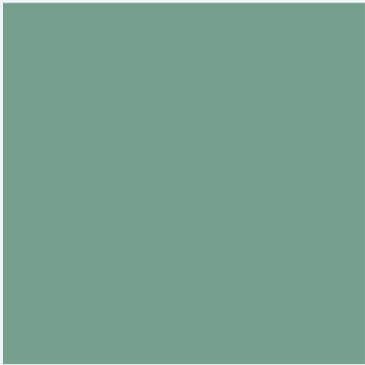
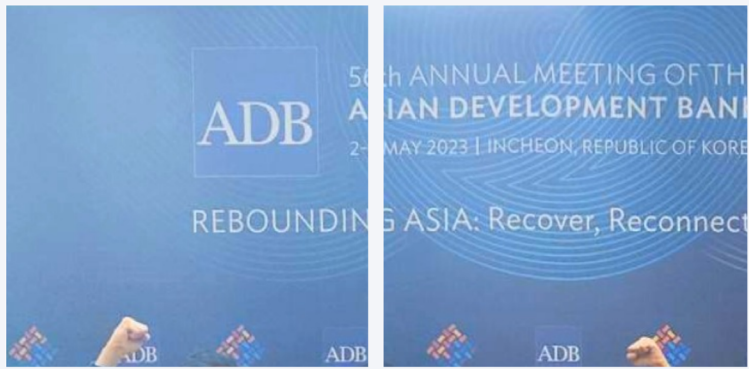
The growing role of Chinese-financed projects in Asia has raised concerns among Forum members. Various projects, such as the Hinkong Gas Terminal in Thailand, Batam Taru Dam in Indonesia, Payra Coal Project in Bangladesh, and Amravati, among others, were once considered for financing by MDBs. Forum members require technical capacity building to engage with Chinese-financed projects and pursue upstream critical advocacy. This will be an area for future effort and investment by the NGO Forum on ADB, in line with its new Strategy 2030 objective of 'empowering peoples to hold IFIs accountable.'

Lastly, the expansion of co-financed projects in the region by ADB and AIIB is leading to larger projects with fewer environmental and social regulations, increasing the potential for high-risk impacts on communities and the environment. The current review of both ADB and AIIB accountability mechanisms is crucial for civil society to establish a strong and binding framework for holding co-financed projects environmentally and socially accountable. This remains another important area for technical capacity building and policy advocacy for the Forum moving forward.

While the annual report describes all our work in detail, I want to take a moment here to say – thank you. Thank you to each and every one of you. You have gone above and beyond to ensure the NGO Forum on ADB not only survived but thrived in 2023. As we move into 2024, I have no doubt that the NGO Forum on ADB will only grow stronger in holding Asian Development Banks accountable in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Rayyan Hassan
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