



**HIGHLIGHTS OF
ADB'S COOPERATION
WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS
2017**

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Notes:

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Cover photo: Chhea Nhem is a basket weaver from Prasat Sambor district, Kampong Thom province in Cambodia. Basket production is one of ADB-supported livelihood projects which benefit poor local villagers in ADB’s developing member countries (photo by ADB).



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ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
CAC	citizen awareness center
CPS	country partnership strategy
CSO	civil service organization
GMS	Greater Mekong Subregion
km	kilometer
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
MFI	microfinance institution
MMC	market management committee
MOU	memorandum of understanding
MVA	market vendor's association
NGO	nongovernment organization
OGP	Open Government Partnership
PCP	Public Communications Policy
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PRC	People's Republic of China
RSPN	Royal Society for Protection of Nature
TA	technical assistance
WCF	ward citizen forum
WUA	water user association



INTRODUCTION

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) was conceived in the early 1960s as a financial institution that would foster economic growth and cooperation in one of the poorest regions in the world. Since its establishment in 1966, ADB has been a consistent partner in the remarkable transformation of Asia and the Pacific.

In 1998, the policy on cooperation between ADB and nongovernment organizations (NGOs) formalized the recognition of NGOs and civil society organizations (CSOs) as key stakeholders. Through the years, experience shows that CSO participation not only improves the quality of ADB's development services, but also substantively contributes to increasing their inclusiveness by building on principles that place people—particularly the poor and marginalized—at the center of the development process.

In 2017, ADB's approvals of loans and grants, technical assistance (TA), and cofinancing reached \$28.9 billion in its continued efforts to address the region's development needs.¹ Despite significant progress, critical challenges continue to hold back the eradication of extreme poverty in Asia and the Pacific. There are 330 million people in the region who survive on less than \$1.90 a day.

It is recognized that ADB's success depends critically on its ability to combine finance with innovative approaches to development. This entails strategic engagement with development partners including CSOs. To expand CSO participation in its operations, ADB approved in 2017 a cluster TA, "Deepening Civil Society Engagement for Development Effectiveness." The project envisions a more inclusive delivery of development services through improved CSO engagement in ADB's selected developing member countries.

In 2017, strategic engagement with CSOs resulted in innovative approaches to poverty reduction. As an example, poor women in Pakistan developed new skills as solar panel technicians and entrepreneurs through ADB's collaboration with CSOs. ADB has also been leveraging the skills and capacity of Timor-Leste's large youth population to help the country's thriving coffee industry, by working alongside the government and NGOs. In Southeast Asia, ADB's Integrated Disaster Risk Management Fund provided direct assistance to local governments and CSOs in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Viet Nam to carry out innovative, community-based, and gender-focused solutions to strengthen disaster resilience. ADB is helping strengthen public accountability in Nepal through collaboration with community-based organizations.

This report provides a snapshot of CSO participation in various phases of the project cycle and through different approaches and/or depth of participation. It reflects the progress of ADB's engagement with CSOs and demonstrates how effective engagement has been able to improve the quality and effectiveness of ADB's programs and services.

1. PROJECTS IN 2017 FEATURING CIVIL SOCIETY COOPERATION

Out of 102 projects in ADB's sovereign operations in 2017, 96% featured participation of civil society organizations (CSOs) in various roles and capacities. ADB maintained the same percentage as in 2016, and has been consistently above the 90% annual target for the last 5 years. When preparing a project for approval, staff members detail how CSOs will be engaged both during project design and during implementation. A common example of CSO participation at the design stage is the exchange of information, public consultations, and focus group discussions. CSOs may also be contracted to help mobilize communities and prepare participatory socioeconomic assessments in the project areas. During project implementation, CSOs may help carry out resettlement plans and become part of the grievance redress mechanism. They may also take on a monitoring role, keeping close watch on whether the project is delivering the planned results and providing feedback when corrective action is needed.

CSO participation during design significantly improved from 69% in 2016 to 84% in 2017, while it declined from 88% to 83% during implementation. Overall, participation by CSOs during both the design and the implementation stages increased to 71% from 63% in the previous year.

Civil Society Organization Participation in ADB Sovereign Operations, 2017

Sovereign Operations	Projects (No.)	With CSO Participation							
		Total		Design		Implementation		Design and Implementation	
		No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)
OCR Loans	70	68	97	60	86	59	84	50	71
ADF Total	44	42	95	37	84	38	86	33	75
Loans	30	30	100	26	87	29	97	25	83
Grants	14	12	86	11	79	9	64	8	57
Total ADB Count^a	102	98	96	86	84	85	83	72	71

ADF = Asian Development Fund, CSO = civil society organization, DEFR = Development Effectiveness Review, OCR = ordinary capital resources.

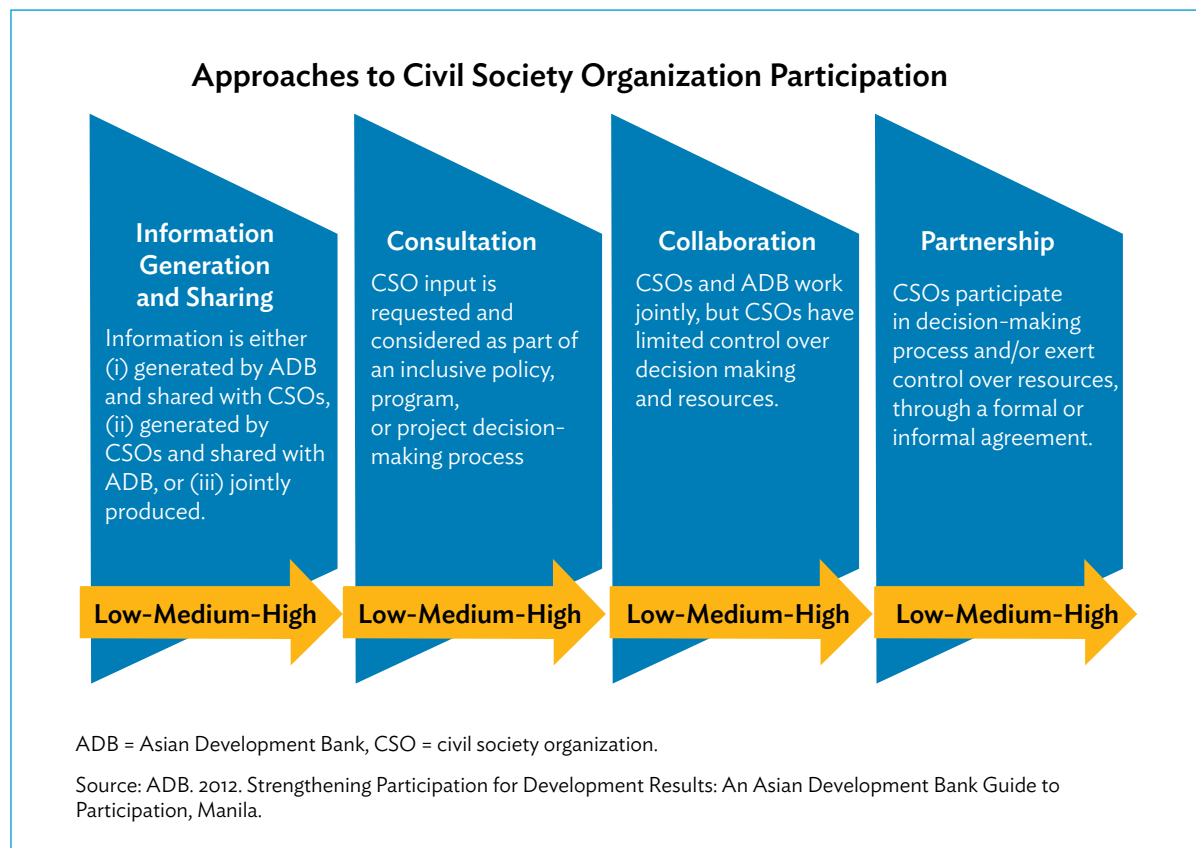
^a The Development Effectiveness Review Index includes all loans and grants funded by ADF and OCR. Includes all sovereign OCR and ADF-funded loans and grants counted based on project identification numbers.

Source: Asian Development Bank Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department.

2. CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN VARIOUS DEPTHS OF PARTICIPATION

ADB's programs stand to benefit from effective civil society participation, but a one-size-fits-all approach does not work. The approach to and depth of participation vary, depending on factors such as the nature of the project, local conditions, and the participation objectives. In ADB, participation encompasses four main approaches: information generation and sharing, consultation, collaboration, and partnership. These cover a continuum of relationships and activities between ADB and stakeholders, including CSOs.

The following paragraphs feature activities depicting CSO participation using the four approaches.²



Information Generation and Sharing

This approach takes place when information is generated by ADB and shared with CSOs, and when CSOs independently generate information and share it with ADB.

Proactive Disclosure of Information to Promote Transparency and Accountability

Transparency and accountability are the cornerstones of development effectiveness. ADB's Public Communications Policy (PCP) requires timely disclosure of project documents to the public and encourages transparent exchange of information.³ The PCP keeps the public—including development partners, civil society, and those affected by ADB projects—increasingly abreast of ADB activities, while also providing added platforms for seeking their views. The overall purpose is to promote two-way exchange of information and build understanding.

Sharing Information through Social Media

Social media platforms help keep ADB's presence highly visible online. ADB now has one of the largest and fastest-growing social media presences among regional multilateral development banks. ADB's NGO and Civil Society Center maintains active Facebook and Twitter accounts with over 65,000 followers in Facebook and 3,000 followers in Twitter. These platforms provide news and updates on new CSO-related knowledge products, ADB projects, and other activities, and also serve as a venue to get real-time feedback from CSOs.

Consultation

As a continuum of activities, a more thorough approach to CSO participation is consultation. It entails requesting stakeholder input through two-way interaction using various methodologies such as face-to-face public forums, focus group discussions, and online comments through the web. Consultation is employed as part of an inclusive policy, program, or project decision-making process.

ADB President Meets with Civil Society Representatives at the 50th Annual Meeting



ADB President Takehiko Nakao meets with civil society representatives during ADB's 50th Annual Meeting (photo by ADB).

Our engagement with CSOs supports ADB's development projects and programs, including disadvantaged communities that are difficult to reach. The presence of CSOs in far-flung areas enables them to act as effective intermediaries to help ensure our programs are responsive to local needs and conditions.

—Takehiko Nakao, ADB President, during the meeting with CSOs at the 50th ADB Annual Meeting, 4 May 2017; Yokohama, Japan

Over 250 civil society representatives met with ADB President Takehiko Nakao on 4 May 2017 in Yokohama, Japan.⁴ The yearly meeting is part of the Civil Society Program of ADB's Annual Meeting. The ADB President recognized the importance of CSOs as effective intermediaries to help ensure that ADB programs are responsive to local needs and conditions.

During the meeting, participants' topics included ADB programs and policies such as social and environmental safeguards, ADB's immunity, and ADB's new strategy, which is currently under preparation. The ADB President also announced the launch of a technical assistance project, "Deepening Civil Society Engagement for Development Effectiveness," which aims to enhance ADB's readiness to fulfill its strategy and support its commitments for more inclusive development programs through effective collaboration with CSOs.

Civil Society Organizations Discuss Key Development Topics at the Annual Meeting

The ADB Annual Meeting offers opportunities for CSOs to engage with ADB, as well as with key government representatives and the private sector about relevant development issues. During the session about promoting inclusive and accountable public services, ADB Vice-President Bambang Susantono acknowledged that CSOs have evolved into a major force in the development process. Amy Leung, then deputy director general and chief thematic officer of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, joined NGO leaders and development experts in the panel discussion. She reiterated ADB's commitment to continue to carry out more inclusive development programs which can be achieved through effective collaboration with CSOs.



ADB Vice-President Bambang Susantono opens the session on promoting inclusive and accountable public services (photo by ADB).

Other topics discussed at the Annual Meeting included social inclusivity and the youth in Asia and the Pacific, addressing rising wealth inequality, ADB and fossil fuel engagement, and information disclosure of multilateral development banks, among others. All civil society sessions were organized in cooperation with key NGOs, such as Conservation International Japan, the Japanese Civil Society and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, NGO Forum on ADB, OISCA International, Oxfam, Partnership for Transparency Fund, The Nature Conservancy, and World Vision International.

Your organizational ties at the grassroots level, as well as participatory and innovative methods of work, have made you important partners in the search for solutions to poverty and other issues that impact on people's lives.

—Bambang Susantono, vice-president for knowledge management and sustainable development, ADB, while addressing CSO participants during the Annual Meeting session, "Promoting Inclusive and Accountable Public Services in Asia and the Pacific," 5 May 2017; Yokohama, Japan

Drawing Civil Society Input in Country Programming



ADB Afghanistan Resident Mission Country Director Thomas Panella (second from left) leads a consultation meeting with representatives of the NGOs on 1 February 2017 in Kabul (photo by ADB).

Country partnership strategies (CPSs) define the parameters of ADB's assistance in a member country. These are closely linked with the country's national development strategy, and ADB's corporate strategic framework, and prepared through consultations with relevant development partners, including CSOs.

In Afghanistan, CSOs discussed key impediments to development, and how ADB can support inclusive and sustainable growth in the country during a CPS consultation in Kabul on 31 January 2017. Participants also shared suggestions on how to best engage CSOs in ADB operations by strengthening their capacities to oversee and

monitor infrastructure projects, engaging CSOs to reach out to communities, and getting CSOs to conduct project impact evaluations, among others.

In 2017, ADB led a briefing and consultation with civil society organizations on the newly approved country strategy and operations. Discussions focused on ADB's country program, safeguard policies, and an update on the ongoing country system review. Around 25 representatives from development and advocacy CSOs participated.

Consultation on Strengthening Participation in Mongolia

Over 70 CSO representatives participated in a consultation meeting on 26 May 2017 in Ulaanbaatar. Attendees shared insights about ADB's portfolio for Mongolia and the CPS for 2017–2020. Discussions also covered areas for strengthening civil society participation in ADB programs in Mongolia.

Collaboration

A more extensive approach to CSO participation is collaboration. This method takes place when ADB works with stakeholders, including CSOs. However, stakeholders have limited control over decision making and resources.



Arcelia Faroca Fernandes challenged Timor-Leste's social norms to become the country's first-ever female car mechanic when she graduated from a training scheme supported by ADB (photo by ADB).

I wanted to become a mechanic because I have always enjoyed fixing cars and I wanted to show the world that women can be mechanics. I wanted to change people's perceptions that only men can be mechanics.

—Arcelia Faroca Fernandes, a lady car mechanic supervisor, Timor-Leste

Building a Skilled Workforce in Timor-Leste

Forming a skilled workforce is crucial in addressing poverty in Timor-Leste. Arcelia Faroca Fernandes, 21 years old, became the country's first-ever female car mechanic when she completed a vocational training program at the Don Bosco Training Center, an NGO based in Timor-Leste. As a vocational training institution, Don Bosco offers courses in carpentry, automotive, metal, welding, plumbing, electrical engineering, and computer skills. Facilities and equipment at the training center were upgraded, which helped boost the numbers of skilled workers in the automotive and construction trades. ADB is supporting the initiative with a \$12 million grant.⁵

Multisector Planning for Disaster Risk Management in Viet Nam

Through the Integrated Disaster Risk Management Fund, ADB extended direct assistance to local governments and CSOs to carry out community-based and gender-focused disaster risk management in Southeast Asian countries. Pilot projects which demonstrate innovative solutions to strengthen disaster resilience were implemented in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Viet Nam.



Members of the Women's Resilience Network attend the Participatory Action-Oriented Training Approach in Co Do District, Can Tho City, Viet Nam (photo by ADB).

The NGO, Life Centre Viet Nam, led a pilot project in two poor rural communes of Can Tho City in the Mekong Delta. This area is particularly vulnerable to floods, drought, and increasing salinity. Life Centre worked with the women's unions to create a new coordination mechanism by convening the People's Committees with line agencies in joint planning processes. The cross-sector consultative planning process successfully integrated local disaster resilience priorities and solutions into commune development plans for the first time. It also established partnerships among NGOs, local government units, and line agencies for implementing and monitoring resilience-building activities.

Enhancing Stakeholder Involvement in Enterprise Development and Electrification

The Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN) helped strengthen meaningful participation of diverse stakeholders, including women, in the areas of enterprise development and electrification in Bhutan. This was made possible through the project, Improving Gender-Inclusive Access to Clean and Renewable Energy. The objective was to increase rural poor women's access to affordable and reliable clean and renewable energy sources and technologies in Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.⁶



Kinley Tenzin (right), RSPN executive director, accepted the award from Bambang Susantono (middle), vice-president for knowledge management and sustainable development, and Amy Leung (left), then deputy director general and chief thematic officer, of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department (photo by ADB).

8 Highlights of ADB's Cooperation with Civil Society Organizations 2017

In recognition of its exemplary work, ADB presented the Civil Society Partnership Award to the RSPN on 5 May 2017 at the ADB Annual Meeting in Japan. The award recognized the NGO's innovation and partnerships which resulted in better and more inclusive development outcomes. Kinley Tenzin, RSPN executive director, accepted the award from Bambang Susantono, vice-president for knowledge management and sustainable development, and Amy Leung, then deputy director general and chief thematic officer, of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department.

Partnership

The most in-depth form of participation is partnership. In this process, CSOs participate in the decision-making process and/or exert control over resources. It is typically achieved through a formal or informal agreement to work together toward common objectives.

ADB Cooperates with the Asia Foundation on Knowledge Partnership

ADB signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Asia Foundation on 10 May 2017, to expand cooperation in supporting development efforts across the Asia and Pacific region. Areas for cooperation include strengthening governance and public sector management, increasing environmental resilience, empowering women, and supporting regional cooperation. Tapping on the foundation's 60 years of on-the-ground development experience across many Asian countries, the partnership will enhance knowledge exchange between the organizations, and help foster new approaches to addressing critical development challenges in the region.

ADB-WWF Partnership for the Environment

ADB's partnership with WWF has operated since 2001 under the terms of an MOU which outlines the basis for collaborative work in the area of environmental management. The WWF is one of the leading NGOs in wildlife conservation and endangered species. The ADB-WWF partnership includes knowledge management, capacity building, development of projects and programs, and shaping of policies and strategies at the organizational level.



Since 2001, ADB has been collaborating with the WWF in environmental management. Photo shows fisherfolks who were recipients of fiberglass boats through the project Bancas for the Philippines, made possible through ADB-WWF partnership. The beneficiaries were survivors of Typhoon Haiyan which hit the Philippines on 8 November 2013 (photo by ADB).

On 17–18 May 2017, some 160 participants joined a forum on sustainable infrastructure in Ha Noi, Viet Nam. The learning event discussed practical approaches and guiding principles for planning and designing climate-resilient and ecologically sound transport infrastructure. The WWF, Viet Nam Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment, and the Greater Mekong Subregion Environment Operations Center organized the event.⁷

In 2017, WWF also contributed to the development of the Spatial Application Facility, a database and analytics platform on cities that will allow for climate change modeling and urban data storage. ADB and the Cities Development Initiative for Asia lead the project. The platform will be used in capacity building work in a cities development program.

Engaging Young People with AIESEC

In 2015, ADB entered into a Cooperation Agreement with AIESEC, one of the world's largest youth-led nonprofit organizations with extensive operations over 550 universities in Asia and the Pacific. The agreement facilitated the active participation of young people in ADB operations. Through the agreement, ADB built on its work in engaging with youth as partners for development. Several knowledge and networking events were organized in 2017 focusing on the role of youth as valuable partners in development.

The 5th Asian Youth Forum was held on 2–7 May 2017 in Yokohama, Japan as a back-to-back event to the 50th ADB Annual Meeting. Co-hosted by another NGO, Plan International, the forum provided the venue for improving the capacity of youth to understand ADB's operations and to contribute innovative and effective solutions to support future and ongoing projects. The event assembled over 180 youth from over 30 ADB member countries. It was organized in cooperation with other NGOs such as the ASEAN Youth Leaders Organization, World Vision, and YouthThink Center.⁸



Effective youth engagement brings fresh ideas and perspectives to ADB's operations (photo by ADB).

ADB Expands Partnership with Plan International

ADB signed the first MOU with Plan International in 2013 and, since then, the collaboration has focused on supporting greater inclusion and engagement of youth in ADB's activities and operations. A new MOU was approved in March 2017, that formalizes joint initiatives in poverty reduction and inclusive economic growth, environment and climate change, and gender mainstreaming, among others. The agreement led to Plan International producing a research paper on economic migration of young women in Asia. In addition, Plan International prepared a study for ADB on the contribution of youth in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It has also been supporting ADB in rebuilding livelihood activities of communities affected by Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. In Cambodia, it helped build the capacity of local CSOs by working with local communities to build climate change resilience in young people within the core of a climate change adaptation project.



Bislig Elementary School in Leyte, Philippines was badly damaged by Typhoon Haiyan, but rehabilitated through ADB's support (photo by ADB).

3. CIVIL SOCIETY IN POLICY REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION

ADB recognizes the importance of stakeholder participation in the development and review of policy and strategy papers. Good practice in consultation combines electronic and written consultations with face-to-face methods in a representative sample of relevant civil society in Asia and the Pacific. Participatory methodologies enable marginalized stakeholders to openly express their views about a project and/or activity.

Improving How ADB Shares Information



Consultations with government, civil society representatives, and other stakeholders from Cambodia, the Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam on 8–9 June 2017 provided feedback on ADB’s proposed new Public Communications Policy. In Thailand, Chris Morris, ADB head, NGO and Civil Society Center, facilitated the civil society session (photo by ADB).

ADB’s Public Communications Policy (PCP) requires timely disclosure of the project and other documents to the public and encourages the exchange of information. Through the policy, civil society and other stakeholders can obtain the information they need to be part of ADB’s development work.

In 2017, ADB continued consulting with and gathering feedback from CSOs on its PCP Review. This involved online and face-to-face discussions in Australia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Canada, Fiji, Georgia, Germany, India, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Thailand, Timor-Leste, the United States, and Viet Nam. ADB received and responded to comments from CSOs, including All India Forum of Forest Movements, Both ENDS, Centre for Law and Democracy, NGO Forum on ADB, and Publish What You Fund.

Developing ADB’s New Strategy

ADB is preparing a new strategy to respond to the changes brought about by a rapidly evolving Asia and the Pacific.⁹ The strategy will outline ADB’s future directions, to go beyond eradicating poverty and focus on helping developing member countries achieve greater prosperity, inclusiveness, resilience, and sustainability.



Rasheda Choudhury (left), executive director of the Bangladesh NGO Campaign for Popular Education, and Annmarie O'Keefe, from the Lowy Institute for International Policy and research associate at the Development Policy Centre, Australian National University, share insights on ADB's New Strategy during a roundtable meeting in Manila, Philippines on 16 March 2017 (photo by ADB).

The strategy will align with global commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change, identify strategic priorities and operational approaches, and highlight the measures proposed to enhance ADB's efficiency and effectiveness further.

In 2017, ADB continued consulting with development thinkers and academics, including CSO representatives, through roundtable meetings in London, Manila, Tokyo, and Washington, DC. Participants provided insights on ADB's role in Asia and the Pacific, combating climate change, strengthening regional cooperation, and integrating knowledge solutions in projects, promoting information and communication technology, and addressing increasing inequality, among others.

Making ADB's Accountability Mechanism Effective

ADB's accountability mechanism provides a forum where people adversely affected by ADB-assisted projects can voice and seek solutions to their problems and report alleged noncompliance with ADB's operational policies and procedures through its problem solving and compliance review functions.¹⁰

In 2017, ADB had a series of outreach sessions with CSOs and discussed its accountability mechanism in key areas in Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the United States, and Uzbekistan. The sessions highlighted the accountability mechanism process, procedures, issues faced, and role of CSOs related to its implementation. The meetings also emphasized the need to improve remedial actions for people affected by ADB projects, and lessons from previous cases that went through the accountability mechanism processes. Additionally, workshops on the development of guidebooks on compliance review were held in ADB headquarters, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, and Georgia where NGO participants had the opportunity to comment on the knowledge product being developed under TA 9289.¹¹



ADB's Accountability Mechanism provides a forum where people adversely affected by ADB-assisted projects can voice and seek solutions to their problems and report alleged noncompliance with ADB's operational policies and procedures (photo by ADB).

During the 50th ADB Annual Meeting, representatives from the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, and NGO Forum on ADB joined ADB's Compliance Review Panel and over 50 participants in a session titled "How to Improve: Access, Partnerships, and Implementation of Remedial Actions." The meeting highlighted the importance of listening, ADB developing member country-institution building, compromise, consultations, and partnership with mutual respect, in the implementation of the accountability mechanism.

4. ENGAGING CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS TO LEVERAGE RESOURCES AND KNOWLEDGE SOLUTIONS

ADB recognizes that CSOs are a source of knowledge and innovation given their grassroots experience and expertise in participatory development approaches. Cooperation with CSOs through dialogue and learning events is helping leverage additional resources, and share knowledge and expertise.

Learning with Partners at the Annual Meeting



Each year the ADB organizes a Civil Society Program as an integral part of the Annual Meeting (photo by ADB).

The Civil Society Program of the ADB Annual Meeting provides a venue for sharing lessons about good practice and innovation in poverty reduction.¹² The program also offers opportunities for networking among CSOs and other development partners on key development topics. Oxfam’s session, “Addressing Rising Income and Wealth Inequality in Asia: Reflections for Strategy 2030 from Civil Society,” highlighted the need for development organizations such as ADB to combat inequality and develop concrete indicators to measure inclusive growth. The panel on “Advancing Women’s Leadership in the Coral Triangle” presented inspiring examples of women leaders working together to improve marine and coastal management in the Coral

Triangle. Notwithstanding challenges traditionally faced in society, a community leader shared how women are being empowered to help enhance food security and strengthen climate change adaptation. The Nature Conservancy organized the learning event. The session on “Social Inclusivity in the Age of Prosperity: The Case of Asia and Pacific Youth” highlighted the importance of working with young people in the development of Asia and the Pacific.

Sharing Knowledge about Civil Society Organization Engagement in the Pacific

A knowledge-sharing event about strengthening CSO engagement in ADB operations in the Pacific was held on 11–13 September 2017 in Apia, Samoa. As a tripartite training program, it assembled 42 participants from ADB, governments, and selected CSOs from Pacific countries. ADB staff and development coordinators from the headquarters in Manila and field offices in Australia, the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea (PNG), and Samoa attended the training. Government and CSO representatives from the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, PNG, Samoa, Timor-Leste, and Vanuatu joined the program.

The training focused on how ADB, together with governments, can work more effectively with CSOs in the various phases of the project cycle, and in the context of ADB's business processes. Participants developed specific recommendations on deepening ADB–government–CSO cooperation in the Pacific. The learning event was organized with support from the ADB Institute.



Workshop participants from governments, CSOs, and ADB participated in a training to deepen CSO engagement in ADB's operations on 11–13 September 2017 in Apia, Samoa (photo by ADB).

Using Participatory Tools to Listen to and Engage Communities in Mongolia

A training program on CSO participation was organized for ADB staff in Mongolia from 19–21 September 2017. The purpose of the learning event was to build the capacity of ADB staff to strengthen citizen engagement in its operations. The program shared good practice and experience in engaging civil society effectively. It also identified concrete solutions and innovations to address current internal and external challenges in CSO engagement.



ADB has been Mongolia's largest multilateral development partner since 1991, playing a central role in the country's transformation to a middle-income, market-based economy (photo by ADB).

Engaging Civil Service Organizations through the Open Government Partnership

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is an international platform for countries committed to making their governments more open, accountable, and responsive to their citizens.¹³ Since its founding in 2011, over 70 OGP participating countries and 15 subnational governments have made commitments to make their governments more open and accountable. In 2014, ADB became a member of the OGP and has been supporting governments to work with civil society in developing and implementing their OGP national action plans.

In 2017, ADB held a series of learning sessions to heighten awareness about the OGP, how countries in the Asia and Pacific region are using the platform to improve fiscal openness, and how ADB can engage with OGP at the country and regional levels. Current ADB member countries committed to using OGP as a framework to support governance reforms include Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Indonesia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Pakistan, PNG, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, and Sri Lanka.

5. HIGHLIGHTS OF CIVIL SOCIETY COOPERATION IN ADB REGIONS

This chapter features significant participation of CSOs in the five regions where ADB operates: Central and West Asia, East Asia, the Pacific, South Asia, and Southeast Asia.

Central and West Asia

Training Women to be Solar Panel Technicians and Entrepreneurs in Pakistan

ADB supported ACTED Pakistan in training women in Multan, Punjab to be solar technicians and entrepreneurs. Multan village faces severe energy shortages, with no access to electricity for up to 20 hours per day. Solar energy is a growing subsector in Pakistan, but there is a lack of trained technicians. Moreover, women are hindered from taking advantage of new opportunities related to solar energy because the energy industry is still traditionally male-dominated.



Women learn to be solar technicians and entrepreneurs (photo by ADB).

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The project not only provided training, but also facilitated linkages among trainees, employers, and financing institutions, thus opening new and better opportunities for women. Since graduating, 33% of trainees have been employed in the solar sector, and 7% were able to access interest-free loans from local microfinance institutions to help them establish their own businesses. They also found that their new skills could help their family and community with increased energy access. Importantly, the project helped empower poor women as they no longer have to rely on men to do repairs at home. Women can now share financial responsibilities and earn for themselves. Trainees believe they can inspire other women to learn and achieve more.

Civil Society Consultation in a Food Security Investment project in Tajikistan

International and national CSOs were actively consulted during the preparation phase of the project, "Achieving Food Security through Climate Resilience Dairy Value Chain Development."¹⁴ Active participation of CSOs contributed to the development of design features that would more effectively link household producers to outlets for their produce. In addition, farmers' associations, pasture users' committees, pasture users' unions, pasture network, and the veterinary association of Tajikistan were part of key informant discussions, surveys, and focus group discussions at households, *jamoat*,¹⁵ and district levels.

The project provides opportunities for CSOs to continue with their active participation during project implementation, availing of capacity building opportunities, and being key players in social and community development.

Engaging Civil Society to Increase Agricultural Production in Pakistan

In 2017, ADB approved a \$275 million loan to help build a surface irrigation system to increase agricultural production and improve food security in the Jhelum and Khushab districts in Punjab province in Pakistan. During project design, meetings and consultations were held with various stakeholders including CSOs, where discussions about the objectives and location of the project were undertaken.



The surface irrigation system will help increase agricultural production and improve food security in the Jhelum and Khushab districts in Punjab province, Pakistan (photo by ADB).

The Jalalpur Irrigation Project will build a new seasonal irrigation system and convert over 68,000 hectares of less productive, predominantly rain-fed land to irrigated land by drawing water from the Jhelum River, one of the tributaries of the Indus River. It will also help form 485 community-based water user associations (WUAs) and involve them in planning, designing, and constructing watercourses. The WUAs and the farmers will be trained to improve their agriculture and water management capacity. The project will introduce advanced technologies, such as laser land leveling and high-efficiency irrigation systems. About 660 agricultural demonstration plots will be established, and 6,000 farm households will learn climate-smart agriculture practices and more profitable farm management.¹⁶

East Asia

Ensuring Inclusiveness and Service Delivery for Persons with Disabilities

In 2017, ADB approved a \$25 million loan to help improve the quality of life of people with disabilities in Mongolia, by providing better economic and educational opportunities, and enhanced public service access and delivery. The project covers Ulaanbaatar and six provinces, and will focus on early identification of children with disabilities through early medical and social intervention. It will also improve the service delivery for people with disabilities by engaging social workers, conducting family sessions, and establishing a dedicated hotline on information, counseling, and referrals.¹⁷



The project promotes equal participation for people with disabilities in economic and social activities by making it easier for them to access basic services and job opportunities (photo by ADB).

Extensive consultation took place in the project design with a range of stakeholders, including disabled people's organizations. Attention was also given to ensure participation of persons with disabilities outside Ulaanbaatar and those with limited access to participate, through focus group discussions and household interviews. Involvement of disabled people's organizations is essential during project implementation, particularly in public communication campaigns, employment and work support, and monitoring and implementation of all project activities as part of the project steering committee.

Working with Civil Society Organizations in Elderly Care in the Hebei Province



The aging population—and its attendant social and economic impacts—is the most significant demographic challenge facing the PRC (photo by ADB).

The aging population—and its attendant social and economic impacts—is the most significant demographic challenge facing the People's Republic of China (PRC). The Hebei Province reached "aging society" status in 1999 when it passed the 10% threshold of population over the age of 60. Traditional family support systems are increasingly unable to meet elderly care needs, due to the combined impacts of fast urbanization, internal migration of youth away from rural areas, and the one-child policy.

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Last year, ADB approved a loan of \$100 million, with a complementary technical assistance grant of \$670,000, to support the development of an elderly care system in Hebei. The project will work with local governments and the implementing agencies to build management capacity, and address key elderly care systems improvement issues such as regulation, assessment of care needs, and involvement of CSOs. Specifically, it will develop five residential care facilities to also serve as hubs to develop home and community-based care services. It is important to note that extensive stakeholder consultations were organized with relevant stakeholders during project design.¹⁸

The Pacific

Supporting Community-Based Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Projects in Tonga

On February 2017, ADB and the Government of Tonga launched the first call for proposals to be funded from its first ever Climate Change Trust Fund, which finances small, community-based climate adaptation and mitigation projects; and funds the climate component of noncommunity-based projects. A total of 213 proposals were received, 182 of which were considered eligible, and 33 prioritized community projects were approved for funding in the first year. The trust fund also provides supplementary financial support to small-scale community-based, climate-related projects proposed by other organizations such as church groups, charities, and NGOs.

Through the trust fund, youth, women's groups, church groups, and others may contribute to strengthening Tonga's climate resilience.

—Siaosi Sovaleni, Tonga's Deputy Prime Minister, at the launch of the Climate Change Trust Fund in Nuku'alofa on 24 February 2017

The approved projects aim to mainstream climate resilience in government planning; address country priorities focusing on the most vulnerable sectors and communities; and strengthen the government's and the community's capacity to finance, develop, monitor, and implement investments to improve ecosystem resilience and climate proof critical infrastructure.

Working with NGOs, Farmers, and Youth to Develop Timor-Leste's Coffee Industry

ADB is leveraging the skills and capacity of Timor-Leste's large youth population to help the country's thriving coffee industry become a key contributor to inclusive growth and sustainable development. A grant of \$225,000 is helping develop the local coffee industry through the preparation of a comprehensive coffee sector development plan to mobilize young people and the private sector.¹⁹

Working alongside the country's Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the NGO, Timor-Leste Coffee Association, ADB is partnering with the US-based nonprofit, Coffee Quality Institute, to develop the plan. As part of the project, ADB is also helping the Timor-Leste Coffee Association to train young people to become the country's first professional coffee tasters, and organized Timor-Leste's first national barista competition as part of Festival Kafe Timor, the country's annual coffee celebration.



Winners in the barista competition in 2017 (photo by ADB).

ADB's support will continue in 2018 with an awareness campaign to attract the youth to the coffee industry through an innovative reality TV show called "Fila fali ba to'os" or "Back to the farm." The show will pair young baristas working in Dili with coffee farming groups throughout the country. The barista and farmer teams will work to improve the quality of their coffee by implementing quality improvement initiatives. These initiatives will be showcased on the TV show, and culminate in a coffee quality and barista competition at Festival Kafe Timor 2018.

South Asia

Sri Lanka: Second Integrated Road Investment Program

The investment program will improve the accessibility of the road network in Sri Lanka's rural areas to increase involvement of the rural population in nationwide economic and social development. It will upgrade and maintain about 3,400 kilometers (km) of rural access roads; and rehabilitate about 340 km of national roads in eastern, northern, Uva, and western provinces.

During project design,²⁰ consultations and social surveys were conducted with relevant community-based organizations through household surveys, group discussions, and a transect walk. Participatory approaches were undertaken to increase stakeholder awareness of the project, determine people's needs and concerns, and obtain suggestions for enhancing benefits and mitigating negative impacts. Community engagement is expected to provide impact to road designs, especially for improving road safety, minimizing environmental impact, and minimizing construction impact.



Photo shows a three-wheeler driver in Sri Lanka. ADB operations in Sri Lanka adjust to align with the evolving needs of the country, which is reaching upper-middle income status (photo by ADB).

Decentralizing Public Management in Nepal



A team from ADB's South Asia Department is visiting the Citizen Awareness Center in Mahendrajyoti village in Nepal and interacting with members of the Citizen Ward Forum to hear their experiences as beneficiaries of the Strengthening Public Management Program (photo by ADB).

ADB's Strengthening Public Management Program has made significant strides and is potentially transformative in supporting the Government of Nepal's decentralization reforms. A system of streamlined disbursement of central government grants was implemented through (i) use of gender empowerment and social inclusion indicators; (ii) earmarked funds for disadvantaged groups, women, and children; and (iii) participatory planning for small community grants through ward citizen forums (WCFs) and citizen awareness centers (CACs). These measures have had significant institutional impact in improving allocative efficiency of resources by the local bodies, and meeting performance benchmarks on socioeconomic targets.

The program helped mobilize over a million citizens in more than 31,000 WCFs and 10,000 CACs. Citizen participation in local government budget and planning involved 250,000 citizens, of which

31% were women. The WCFs and CACs selected over 80% of community-level projects. They have been effective in distributing earthquake relief funds with strong community oversight. The program also provided livelihood improvement grants and skill-building training to the poorest and marginalized members of the communities through the WCFs and CACs. Among many examples, these funds helped create a village-level garment production facility and develop a small revolving fund for lending to purchase livestock and improve basic infrastructure. Improvements in the incomes of the community, especially the single women, helped more children to attend school. Overall, empowerment of citizens and community-based organizations strengthened public accountability across Nepal.

Southeast Asia

Supporting Poor Informal Vendors in Cambodia, the Lao PDR, and Viet Nam

As part of ADB's Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Corridor Towns Development Support, the regional GMS Livelihood Support for Corridor Towns grant project aims to (i) enhance poverty reduction impact of ADB's economic corridor towns development strategy, and (ii) increase capture of economic benefits to poor, informal traders. The project provides market facilities; microfinance support; and skills development in financial management, product development, and business plan development to eligible poor informal vendors in Cambodia, the Lao PDR, and Viet Nam.



Awareness-raising workshop were carried out on the roles of market management committees and market vendor's associations (photo by ADB).

The project piloted a replicable microfinance model, by partnering with local microfinance institutions (MFIs) in the development of pro-poor MFI product and establishment of pro-poor market governance institutions. These institutions are the market management committees (MMCs) and market vendor's associations (MVAs). The project's sustainability strategy includes the executing agency's (Ministry of Public Works and Transport) memorandum of agreement with the MFI for extension of a pro-poor microfinance model 10 years after project completion and formal registration of an MMC and MVA under respective government's policies on association and cooperation. In addition to MMCs and MVAs, ADB worked with microfinance institutions such as the Lao Women's Union and Viet Nam Women's Union to implement the project's microfinance component.

Innovations in Community-Based Disaster Risk Management



Community leaders participate at a learning exchange on waste management in Yogyakarta, Indonesia (photo by ADB).

Through ADB's Integrated Disaster Risk Management Fund, the Huairou Commission partnered with NGOs in Indonesia and the Philippines to drive community disaster resilience activities in poor and vulnerable communities. The commission worked with the Indonesian NGO, YAKKUM Emergency Unit; and DAMPA, a federation of women-led community-based organizations in the Philippines. By mobilizing grassroots women's groups, the project empowered women living in disaster-prone communities to lead innovative disaster risk management activities. The Huairou Commission is a network that builds the capacity of grassroots women's organizations to promote sustainable, gender-equitable and pro-poor development.

community mapping to determine disaster risks priorities and gathered data on vulnerable households. The information was fed into the appropriate government databases to ensure deserving households benefit from social protection programs. The women also successfully influenced village fund allocations to improve water harvesting and water distribution infrastructure to address water insecurity.

In Indonesia, the project was implemented in 10 villages of the Gunung Kidul district of Yogyakarta Regency in Java. Women's groups carried out

In the Philippines, DAMPA put into action a similar program in five barangays in Metro Manila, and in another five barangays in Tanauan, Leyte, which were badly affected by Typhoon Haiyan in 2013. Community disaster risk maps formed the basis for setting resilience activities and advocating for support from local government authorities. In Metro Manila, women's groups successfully negotiated for municipal investments to upgrade infrastructure and carry out waste management activities to improve sanitation and reduce flood risks in informal settlements. In Leyte, on the other hand, the women were able to get support from local government institutions to access resources for livelihood activities. In both project areas, grassroots organizations successfully collaborated with government agencies to identify beneficiaries for social protection programs.



Members of DAMPA discuss priorities for action during a workshop in Manila (photo by ADB).



NEXT STEPS

Substantive progress on CSO engagement has been achieved since the adoption of ADB's 1998 NGO cooperation policy. Experience shows deeper CSO participation improves development outcomes and increases the inclusiveness of programs and projects. However, ADB recognizes several constraints that impede progress in optimizing meaningful CSO participation.

On 27 November 2017, ADB approved the Technical Assistance (TA) cluster, Deepening Civil Society Engagement for Development Effectiveness. The project seeks to address impediments that hamper constructive engagement with CSOs in the context of the changing development landscape in the Asia and Pacific region. The TA further seeks to contribute to the improved delivery of inclusive development services in ADB's selected developing member countries through CSO cooperation. The first of the three subprojects cover selected countries in Georgia, Mongolia, and the Pacific. In 2018, CSO engagement is expected to be intensified in these countries and region. The TA's Subproject 2 will expand the TA activities into other countries and regions.

ADB expects to finalize its New Strategy in late 2018, to outline the vision and key directions for its engagement with developing member countries until 2030. The strategy will describe how ADB aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change. It will also identify institutional and organizational reforms necessary to sharpen ADB's efficiency and effectiveness.

The new development paradigms and trends in Asia and the Pacific point to the important role of CSOs in making development programs more inclusive. The implication for ADB is that opportunities will increase in the coming years for supporting more strategic and meaningful cooperation with CSOs.

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Highlights of ADB's Cooperation with Civil Society Organizations 2017

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) recognizes that cooperation with civil society organizations (CSOs) helps improve the quality of its development services. ADB recognizes that CSOs should be more involved in the design and implementation of projects, as well as in the monitoring of project activities and outputs. ADB continues to address the changing needs of its developing member countries and is looking forward to a stronger partnership and collaboration with CSOs. This publication highlights ADB's cooperation with CSOs and provides insights on the important contribution of civil society to help ensure that the bank's operations are responsive to the poor and marginalized.

About the Asian Development Bank

ADB's vision is an Asia and Pacific region free of poverty. Its mission is to help its developing member countries reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of their people. Despite the region's many successes, it remains home to a large share of the world's poor. ADB is committed to reducing poverty through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration.

Based in Manila, ADB is owned by 67 members, including 48 from the region. Its main instruments for helping its developing member countries are policy dialogue, loans, equity investments, guarantees, grants, and technical assistance.

