



FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION ON PLANNING FOR CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN THE WORLD BANK/IMF ANNUAL MEETINGS IN SINGAPORE

Wednesday, May 31, 2006

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Executive Summary

On May 31, 2006, representatives of the World Bank, IMF, and Asian CSOs participated in a meeting to discuss next steps on planning for civil society participation in the 2006 Annual Meetings of the World Bank and IMF, which will take place in September in Singapore. Eight of the representatives met in the World Bank's office in Tokyo, and the others participated via videoconference. The meeting was chaired by Carolyn Reynolds of the World Bank. A list of all participants is attached.

The discussion was a follow-up to the March 28-29 planning workshop which took place in Singapore. A summary of that workshop and related documents are posted on the World Bank's website for civil society at: www.worldbank.org/civilsociety or by clicking on the following direct link:

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/CSO/0,,contentMDK:20923003~pagePK:220503~piPK:220476~theSitePK:228717,00.html>

The World Bank and IMF reported on progress toward the Annual Meetings, including the plans for accreditation of CSOs, space for civil society activities, and other activities such as the Program of Seminars. Then the CSOs who had participated in the March meeting reported out from meetings held with other CSOs from their countries, and feedback they had received on the proposed topics for discussion at the Annual Meetings Civil Society Forum.

The participants then debated the merits and details of specific proposals and agreed on a shortlist to be showcased in September. Individual topic champions agreed to confer with interested CSOs and to refine the seminar proposals, identify speakers etc. by June 30.

Specifics on the various topics discussed in the May 31 meeting are detailed below.

Schedule of Activities for the Annual Meetings

Carolyn Reynolds of the World Bank's Civil Society Team reported that plans are progressing for the Annual Meetings and related activities. The SunTec Conference Center will be open on Wednesday, September 13 and key meeting dates (to be confirmed) are as follows:

- **Civil Society Forum (open to all accredited CSOs):** Thursday, September 14 – Wednesday, September 20
- **Program of Seminars (open to all accredited CSOs):** Saturday, September 16 – Monday, September 18



- **G-7 Finance Ministers Meeting:** Saturday, September 16
- **International Monetary and Finance Committee:** Sunday, September 17
- **Development Committee:** Monday, September 17
- **Annual Meetings Plenary:** Tuesday, September 19 – Wednesday, September 20

CSO Accreditation

Carolyn reported that CSO accreditation would be open on the web as of June 1. **The deadline for CSOs to submit requests to for accreditation to the 2006 Annual Meetings will be Friday, August 4.** All interested CSOs are encouraged to apply early to allow adequate time for visa processing if needed. Information on the accreditation process and how to apply can be found by going to the Bank's web page for civil society at www.worldbank.org/civilsociety or by clicking on the following direct link:

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/CSO/0,,contentMDK:20846787~pagePK:220503~piPK:220476~theSitePK:228717,00.html?>

Funding for CSO Participation

Carolyn reported that funding will be available to cover the participation of the representatives of those organizations in the Asia CSO regional planning group who may require such assistance in order to travel to Singapore for the Annual Meetings. The Bank and Fund are trying to secure additional donor funds for the participation of other CSOs from developing countries in the Annual Meetings, but there are no firm commitments yet; the Bank and Fund will invite nominations for if additional funds become available. Other CSOs will be expected to self-finance.

Public Space for Peaceful Assembly

Peter Stephens of the World Bank Singapore office reported that the concerns of Asian and international CSOs had been shared with the Government of Singapore at the March planning workshop. Subsequently, Singapore held elections in early May, and the new Cabinet has just been seated. The issue of peaceful public assembly is now being considered at the highest levels of the Singapore government. Discussions are focusing around specifics such as what type of area or facility can be set up, who will be permitted to participate, etc.

Several CSO participants reaffirmed their interest in this issue, and urged that there be clarity on the issue as soon as possible, so that CSOs can plan their participation in the Annual Meetings. **Paul O'Callaghan of ACFID** suggested that it would be helpful to all concerned if a specific working protocol were developed, and he offered assistance to the Bank, IMF and the Singapore government in this regard. Peter Stephens thanked him and agreed to convey the suggestions to the government.

Youth Participation in Singapore Annual Meetings/pre-discussions



Peter Stephens reported that the World Bank is planning to host “open space” discussions in 5 East Asian countries for young people before the Annual Meetings. The open space technology will allow youth to formulate and lead their own discussions on topics of their choosing. The Bank may also utilize its videoconferencing facilities to allow the youth to engage with those in other countries. The outcomes of the youth-led discussions will be captured and posted on the web and shared with participants at the Annual Meetings. The youth forum in Singapore may take place on the eve of the Annual Meetings to ensure close linkages. Many of the CSOs expressed support for the idea and also were interested in having some young people represented at the Annual Meetings.

Reports from Country-level Discussions

Australia: Paul O’Callaghan reported that ACFID members had discussed the outcomes of the March meetings, and there was general support to focus the discussions on topics of governance, corruption, urbanization, skills development, gender and debt relief.

Cambodia: Haidy Ear-Dupuy of the NGO Forum reported that a follow-up meeting had been held with Cambodian NGOs. The groups proposed to combine topics and develop a specific proposal for comparative analysis and dialogue on People’s Participation and Natural Resource Management. They are formulating a questionnaire and concept paper, and would like to collaborate with colleagues in Vietnam, Australia and Philippines.

China: **Huang Homing of CANGO** reported that CANGO held a follow-up to the March workshop, and the member organizations supported the 8 topics identified. He noted specific interest around the topic of urbanization and governance, which will be coordinated by the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation.

Indonesia: **Dian Kartika Sari of INFID** reported that Indonesia CSOs also held a general meeting and national meeting. Interest focused around gender and indigenous peoples’ issues as well as debt relief, on which INFID will partner with international NGO Eurodad to develop a specific seminar proposal for the Annual Meetings. There is also interest among the Indonesia CSOs to discuss the countries affected by the tsunami, the role of donor agencies including the Bank, and lessons learned.

Dian also reported that INFID is organizing a People’s Forum September 15-17 in Batam, Indonesia, which is nearby to Singapore, for Indonesian groups and other groups who may not be able to go to Singapore. **Fabby Mulia Tumiwa** added that INFID and other groups plan on participating in meetings both inside the Annual Meetings venue in Singapore and in Batam. He mentioned that he was coordinating with some international CSOs such as World Resources Institute who are organizing a discussion on governance in the power sector.

Singapore: **Dr. Tay Keong Tan of the Singapore International Foundation** reported that SIF would like to see a strong focus on youth at the Annual Meetings, linking to the launch of the World Development Report 2007 on youth. He also said there would be a lot of interest in



Singapore in discussions focused on governance, transparency and accountability, both the role of CSOs holding governments accountable as well as self-accountability of CSOs.

Thailand: **Kim Versak of the World Bank Bangkok office** noted that given the political situation in Thailand over the past few months, it had not been possible for Thai CSOs to have any follow-up discussions yet about the Annual Meetings agenda.

Vietnam: Bill Tod of SNV said he would try to encourage more interest from Vietnamese CSOs in the Annual Meetings. He reported that there had been some discussion of the outcomes of the March meeting during a subregional PRSP meeting in Vientiane, Laos, in early April. The CSO participants there proposed to showcase their work on service delivery and experiences with promoting people's participation. Bill has circulated a concept paper to colleagues in Australia and Cambodia for comment, and will share with the rest of the groups after the videoconference.

Japan: **Koichi Omori of the World Bank Tokyo office** reported that Keiko Kiyama of JEN, had attended the March workshop but was unable to attend today's discussion due to a prior commitment. He said that Japanese CSOs would be interested in contributing to discussions in Singapore on sharing experiences with community-driven development programs, disability and accessibility issues, and the Japanese Social Development Fund. Koichi reported that Keiko and Takashi Shimosawa of JANIC would be convening a follow-up discussion with other Japanese CSOs in the coming weeks to set their priorities for engagement in Singapore.

India: **Ved Arya of Srijan** reported that both he and Mona Dave of SEWA (who was unable to connect to the videoconference) had submitted specific proposals for workshops to be organized with the World Bank Delhi office. The work on these will commence in June. Ved will be organizing a national workshop on market-led skill development, while SEWA will be organizing one on gender and trade. Both workshops will aim to promote dialogue on the issues among various stakeholders in government, civil society and private sector within India, and then follow up with panel discussions in Singapore to share cross-country experiences.

Specific Topic Proposals

Governance/Anti-Corruption/Transparency/Participation: Paul O'Callaghan said there appeared to be converging interest around the issue of empowering people at the local level to take part in decision-making, to monitor government performance and root out corruption. He proposed that in addition to the session already being organized by the Cambodian NGO Forum on Participation and Natural Resources Management, the groups should identify two other themes/sectors on which to hold focused discussions on governance. He reported that ACFID is discussing a World Vision paper that compares approaches to social accountability in five countries, and that this could form the basis for a panel discussion in Singapore.

Haidy Ear-Dupuy of the NGO Forum in Cambodia suggested that one of the other themes for a panel discussion in Singapore should be governance in service delivery in the context of urbanization. Laurence Gray of World Vision Asia said it might be useful to focus specifically on impacts on youth, and access for urban poor to decision-making.



Ved Arya of Srijan suggested that the Natural Resources Management and Participation discussion be more narrowly focused on access to water and water rights.

Dr. Tan of SIF proposed a session on lessons learned from CSOs on holding themselves accountable. Huang Homing of CANGO agreed and said it would be important to make sure discussions on this topic involve policymakers as well.

Infrastructure: Fides Bagasao proposed a discussion on lessons learned on infrastructure which builds on the World Bank report on its lessons but brings in the experience of CSOs. Fabby Tumiwa also expressed interest in this topic. Ved Arya and Fides urged that the discussion focus be focused with a view toward providing lessons learned for other donors (not just the Bank) and governments.

Job Creation/Market-led Skill Development: Ved Arya briefly described his proposal (previously circulated to the group) for a set of workshops on market-led skill development, which would start with some research and discussion in India and would include a seminar in Singapore sharing experiences across countries. He asked the other CSOs to give him feedback and propose cases/speakers from other countries. Huang Homing Dian Kartika Sari and Laurence Gray all expressed interest in collaborating on the proposal. Specifically, the group suggested it would make sense to focus on the needs of youth in this seminar, and to invite youth representatives to participate. Carolyn Reynolds added that the author of the Bank's World Development Report on youth could contribute to this discussion.

Debt: Dian Kartika Sari reported that she had developed the terms of reference for a session on debt together with Men Santa Ana and international NGOs including Eurodad and Afrodad. She is currently soliciting feedback on the proposal.

Disability: Lauro Purcil urged the group to make sure that each of the topics to be discussed in Singapore include a focus on persons with disabilities, and the quality of interventions. He said it would be important to make sure the World Bank and other donors invest more to address the needs of persons with disabilities in their programming, especially in the case of providing access to basic education. Paul O'Callaghan noted that Australian CSOs were also focused on the disability issue, and he offered to assist on this.

Gender and Trade: Carolyn Reynolds reported that she had met with Reema Nanavaty and Mona Dave of SEWA recently in Washington, and that they have developed a specific proposal for a workshop in India and also in Singapore (which was previously circulated to the groups). Reema and Mona were unable to connect to the VC discussion, but CSOs were asked to send them any suggestions for the session and proposed country cases/speakers.

Tsunami/Disaster Response: After the VC concluded, the groups assembled in Tokyo discussed joint interests in having a session focused on lessons learned from the tsunami. Fabby Tumiwa said that INFID hoped to bring tsunami survivors from Aceh, India and Sri Lanka to Singapore to discuss the impact of aid and the role of the donors. Laurence Gray said



the session should focus more on disaster preparedness, and he said that World Vision is working with the National University of Singapore to prepare a paper that looks at disaster response in conflict environments. Early findings from the paper could be presented at the Annual Meetings.

NEXT STEPS

Carolyn asked everyone to send her their revised proposals with session descriptions, identified speakers, etc. no later than June 30, and she will circulate to the entire group. Those who agreed to take the lead on the formulation of specific proposals for discussion in Singapore include:

- Governance and Social Accountability: Paul O’Callaghan with Laurence Gray, Ved Arya and Paul Martell of CID/New Zealand (who had expressed interest in the topic in March).
- Natural Resource Management and Local Participation: Haidy Ear-Dupuy with Ek Siden, Bill Tod and Don Marquez.
- Market-led Skill Development (focused on youth employment): Ved Arya with Laurence Gray, Huang Homing and Dr. Tay Keong Tan.
- CSO Accountability: Dr. Tan with inputs from Huang and the World Bank.
- Debt Relief: Dian Kartika Sari with Men Santa Ana, Eurodad and Afrodad.
- Infrastructure/Lessons Learned: Fides Bagasao with Fabby Tumiwa.
- Tsunami/Disaster Response Lessons Learned: Laurence Gray and Dian Kartika Sari
- Gender and Trade: Reema Nanavaty and Mona Dave, SEWA

Paul O’Callaghan urged the groups as they develop their session proposals, to gear them toward the policymakers and global audience that will be gathered in Singapore at the Annual Meetings, so that they will have maximum influence. He said the CSO-led discussions in Singapore should be targeted as “change agents” which will lead to further dialogue and engagement with global and national policymakers after the Annual Meetings.

Don Marquez of ANGOC reminded the group that it would be useful to identify an overarching theme for the Civil Society Forum that would tie the various proposals together.

Nor Gonzales of the World Bank Manila Office offered that the CSOs could utilize the Bank’s videoconferencing facilities if they want to meet among themselves as they finalize their proposals; anyone interested in this should contact their local WB office.

Ved Arya proposed holding another VC among all of the groups in early July to review the revised proposals and finalize the program. Carolyn agreed to identify a possible date for this.