



WORKSHOP ON ENHANCING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANK PROJECTS IN ASIA IN THE CONTEXT OF LAND ACQUISITION AND RESETTLEMENT



CONCEPT NOTE

Background

In today's increasingly interconnected world, the success of infrastructure development projects hinges on effective stakeholder engagement. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), along with the Multilateral Cooperation Center for Development Finance (MCDF), recognize the pivotal role that strong stakeholder relations play in fostering sustainable outcomes and ensuring compliance with AIIB's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). Other Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) active in the region have also been proactive in building client capacity around stakeholder engagement, such as the World Bank (WB) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Effective stakeholder engagement becomes even more vital in the context of land acquisition, serving as the linchpin for equitable transactions, informed consent, and peaceful resettlement, thereby aligning the project objectives with local needs and rights.

Building upon the work of peer MDBs and following the feedback received during the Environment and Social (E&S) Safeguards Community of Practice (CoP) Seminar on Wind Power Projects, held in June 2023, which was co-organized by MCDF, AIIB and ADB, it became evident that there is a pressing need for further focused discussion and capacity-building around this topic.

Therefore, MCDF is proposing to organize, in collaboration with AIIB, ADB and WB, a **virtual one-day workshop** aimed at enhancing stakeholder engagement practices in land acquisition and resettlement among AIIB, ADB and WB clients in Asia with a focus on connectivity projects with a cross-regional or cross-border component. **The workshop will take place on 6 December 2023.**

Objectives

The primary aim of this virtual workshop is to **enhance stakeholder engagement practices in land acquisition and resettlement among AIIB, ADB and WB clients in Asia, with a focus on connectivity projects** that have a cross-regional or cross-border component. The workshop is designed to foster collaboration and experience sharing amongst project management units (PMU) of AIIB/ADB/WB clients, building upon lessons learned from other MDB initiatives and drawing upon the unique socio-political landscapes of the diverse countries - regional members of AIIB (and member countries of ADB and WB). The specific objectives are to address:

- 1. Diverse Stakeholder Engagement Challenges:** To delve into the unique challenges and opportunities in stakeholder engagement through case study presentations, demonstrating how stakeholder engagement and grievance redress mechanisms (GRM) are applied in specific projects.
- 2. Conceptual Framework:** To refresh participants on the policy framework underpinning AIIB's, ADB's and WB's requirements for stakeholder engagement and GRM, ensuring a shared foundational understanding in alignment with these IFI E&S policies as a starting point for deeper discussions.
- 3. Country Systems and Stakeholder Engagement in Land Acquisition:** To explore how country systems are tackling stakeholder engagement within the critical context of land acquisition, emphasizing best practices and potential pitfalls.
- 4. Promoting Good Practices:** To share best practices and tools available in the region for effective stakeholder engagement and GRM management on the context of land acquisition.

DESIGN AND AGENDA

Target Audience

The proposed workshop will target select AIIB, ADB and WB clients in Asia, primarily those engaged on the implementation of ESF and safeguard policy statement (SPS) requirements related to land acquisition, grievance management and stakeholder engagement in general. This includes members of Project Implementation Units (PIU) and governmental agencies and potentially local consultants involved in the implementation of stakeholder engagement and GRMs in the land acquisition process.

Format

The one-day workshop will be virtual and conducted through a user-friendly and secure virtual platform, enabling easy participation. Registrants will be vetted against the target audience criteria prior to confirmation of participation.

A tentative agenda is outlined below:

DATE: 6 DECEMBER 2023, VIRTUAL

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER(S)
OPENING AND INTRODUCTION		
9:30 – 9:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Importance of Stakeholder Engagement (SE) in Development/Infrastructure Development Projects Importance of Stakeholder Engagement in Land Acquisition and Resettlement (LAR) Objective(s) of the Workshop 	Ines Fejzic Senior Environmental and Social Development Specialist, MCDF
SESSION 1		
9:40 – 10:00	Key principles and requirements of AIIB ESF in SE in LAR	Suu Tran Quy Social Development Specialist, AIIB
10:00 – 10:45	Case-Study: Bangladesh – Stakeholder Engagement in Sylhet Tamabil Road Project: Sharing the (i) context of the selected project-including land acquisition impacts by the project; (ii) design and implementation of stakeholder engagement in land acquisition and resettlement; (iii) experiences and lessons learnt during the process.	AIIB client PMU
10:45 – 11:15	Discussion and Q&A	AIIB
SESSION 2		
11:15 – 11:35	Key principles and requirements of World Bank ESF in SE in LAR	WB Representative
11:35 – 12:20	Case-Study: [TBC]: Sharing the (i) context of the selected project-including land acquisition impacts by the project; (ii) design and implementation of stakeholder engagement in land acquisition and resettlement; (iii) experiences and lessons learnt during the process.	WB client PMU
12:20 – 12:45	Discussion and Q&A	AIIB
12:45 – 13:30	Lunch Break	
SESSION 3		
13:30 – 13:50	Key principles and requirements of ADB SPS 2009 in SE in LAR and differences with the AIIB	Zaruhi Hayrapetyan Social Development Specialist (Safeguards), ADB
13:50 – 14:35	Case-Study: [TBC]: Sharing the (i) context of the selected project-including land acquisition impacts by the project; (ii) design and implementation of stakeholder engagement in land acquisition and resettlement; (iii) experiences and lessons learnt during the process.	ADB client PMU
14:35 – 15:05	Discussion and Q&A	AIIB
SESSION 4		
15:05 – 16:00	Panel Discussion: Country Systems and Stakeholder Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How well do country systems on stakeholder engagement in land acquisition and resettlement work in the region? Key areas of improvement between country systems and IFI policies. Actions and practices for countries to reach compliance with IFI (AIIB, ADB, WB) policies. 	Zaruhi Hayrapetyan Social Development Specialist (Safeguards), ADB Annabelle N. Herrera EcosysCorp Inc. Ines Fejzic Moderator
CLOSE OUT AND KEY TAKEAWAYS		
16:00 – 16:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of the discussions Closing remarks 	MCDF and AIIB OSD Representative [TBC]