ASIAN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT BANK

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Jin Liqun
President

July 30, 2020

Mr. Rayyan Hassan
Executive Director
NGO Forum on ADB

Dear Mr. Hassan,

Many thanks for your letter. Let me express my strong appreciation for the work you are doing to help communities across Asia during this unprecedented time. Community-based organizations are an integral part of the international response to COVID19.

In a crisis such as we are experiencing, everyone has a role to play. Beginning in late January, the Management Team at the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) made a major decision to pivot our investment strategy to support the many countries struggling with the health and economic fallout of the pandemic. As a multilateral development bank, we determined this was the most appropriate role we could play in the coordinated effort to fight COVID19.

Since then, much of our time and resources have been dedicated to making investments under our Crisis Recovery Facility and finding ways to continue effective monitoring of our projects already under implementation in an environment where travel restrictions and lockdowns have become the norm. Our ongoing hope is this is a fork in the road and that we will soon shift back to our regular focus areas.

As you note, our 2020 Annual Meeting is now virtual and is a much scaled down version compared to what we had originally envisaged. Our intention was to host our regular dialogue at this physical meeting. However, under the circumstances we decided to move this very important engagement until later in the year. We are currently planning to hold this event virtually in October.

We anticipate being able to release the draft Environmental and Social Framework by this point. This timing will give you the opportunity to provide feedback on this critical document. Our engagement would happen during the public consultation period which means I, and other members of my Management Team, will be able to directly hear your suggestions and recommendations to improve the document.

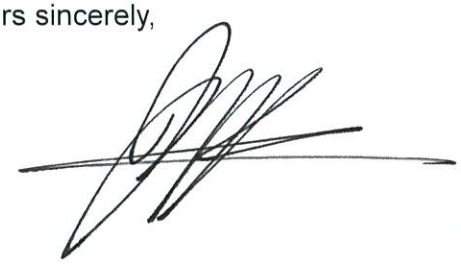
I hope this clarifies the reason why we have moved the timing. I hope you will see this change as I see it – as an opportunity to have a more engaging and purposeful discussion.

I want to reinforce that engagement with civil society should not be seen as a once-a-year exercise at AIIB. This is especially true in our current world when bringing people physically together is anticipated to be much more difficult. Even though not being together physically is a challenge, we decided to make the most of the situation and schedule our dialogue at a more opportune time as outlined above.

As was communicated to civil society last week, our project teams are available to have discussions on specific projects by request. This offer is not time-bound to the Annual Meeting as we believe it is more effective and efficient to maintain an open dialogue throughout the year. As always, requests by civil society organizations to meet with senior leaders at the bank are consistently welcomed. This has not changed, and we will continue to facilitate requests for discussions on key topics of interest.

Finally, I wish you and your families good health. Thank you again for everything you do to help vulnerable people around the world. I look forward to meeting you in October.

Yours sincerely,



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International Accountability Project (IAP), International

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NGO "Youth Group on Protection of Environment", Tajikistan

NGO Forum on Cambodia, Cambodia

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Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum, Pakistan

Participatory Research Action Network- PRAN, Bangladesh

Peoples Development Institute, Philippines

Progressive Plantation Workers Union, India

Programme on Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (PWESCR) International

Recourse, Europe

Rivers without Boundaries Coalition, Mongolia

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Rural Reconstruction Nepal, Nepal

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Youth For Environment Education And Development Foundation (YFEED Foundation), Nepal