International Convenor's Statement

We have been passing through a difficult time. The food crisis, energy crisis and now economic crisis have been showing the true color of the neo-liberal economic regimes in regular intervals. The logical conclusion is the utter failure of the style of the neo-liberal agent's development path.

ADB's supposedly new Long-Term Strategic Framework (LTSF) or 'Strategy 2020' is outrightly dedicated to support the private sector, those responsible for the current financial crisis. Blind to the realities, the ADB argues that economic growth has been the driving force for reducing poverty in the region, calling for a big leap in its funding for private sector development and private sector operations. All these money, apart from the bail-outs by governments, will only go down the drain as it has for the last 42 years.

ADB's most favored consultant, PricewaterhouseCoopers, has been exposed in India this year for assisting corporates like Satyam in hoodwinking the government and market with fictitious financial figures. How will this Strategy 2020 check these fraudulent activities of the private sector?

It's a matter of shame that the ADB forgets its immoral acts of swelling the ozone hole all these years and now pretends to be a savior of climate change. This climate hypocrisy does not suit the Strategy 2020, not to mention the ongoing siphoning of huge investments to the wrong projects in numerous countries.

The changing trends in ADB's strategy are sowing the seeds of dissatisfaction and discontent among the communities. The NGO Forum on ADB is ready to assist and work with the communities about their concerns and to scrutinize the ADB under its watchful eyes.

I wish the NGO Forum on ADB will continue to keep its watchful eyes and ears on ADB projects, programs and policies, and to champion the communities' concerns all over the Asia-Pacific.

Wilfred D'Costa
International Convenor, NGO Forum on ADB
WAYS FORWARD
Renato Redentor Constantino
Executive Director, NGO Forum on ADB

The year 2008 marked the 41st annual meeting of the ADB, which was held in Madrid, Spain where it unveiled its long-term strategic framework called Strategy2020, which aims to privatize the very development agenda of the region. There is no doubt this blueprint will spell trouble for the marginalized given its unequivocal commitment to promote economic models widely considered responsible for the huge -- and growing -- gap in the quality of life between the affluent and the destitute.

It will be crucial for the Forum to keep this larger context in mind as it attempts to demystify the bank’s intentions, serve community interests, engage governments and push for lasting alternative solutions that actually benefit the poor instead of big business.

Despite transitions of leadership over the years, the Forum carries with it the same values that led to its formation in 1992. These values continue to sustain the Forum’s efforts as a network to monitor and prevent, if not roll back entirely, projects, policies and programs promoted by international financial institutions led by the Asian Development Bank which threaten the interests of impoverished peoples and fragile ecosystems.

Yet the Forum is more than just different groups working on disparate issues. It needs to be if, as a network, it is to challenge the ADB’s relentless pursuit of growth-fixed, market-driven Asian economies, which has largely resulted in the the disenfranchisement and utter ruin of countless communities.

Full democratization, one defined by the active, sustained and meaningful participation of peoples relegated to the margins of the development debate: this is the Forum’s agenda. It is the compass by which the advocacy for truly effective and enduring social and environmental safeguards is run. It is the goal that guides the Forum’s promotion of the public’s right to information, sustainable and decentralized energy and gender-biased, class-determined progress, among other things.

Generations from now, young ones might note the lunacy which caused so-called leaders during our time to embrace the idea that unrestrained accumulation and avarice can and should be both the means and ends to living.

They might observe too that those who chose to march on the side of working peoples and the vulnerable were finally able to surmount the ambient enmities of their time to link arms and wrest control over their lives -- away from those who have for too long held the levers of power.

Of course, between such an imagined future and today is an entire world and to say a lot of work is required is to make a gross understatement. Our ability to imagine such a period coming to pass, however, along with action against injustice and our capacity to celebrate bonds beyond monetary considerations -- these are the things that will help bridge the chasm.

It will not be easy and it will take time, but its work in 2008 demonstrates that the Forum remains committed and continues to contribute to helping realize this objective. What young people painted on walls everywhere forty years ago in 1968 remains valid: "The future will only contain what we put into it today."
HIGHLIGHTS: THE FORUM IN 2008

The crisis context

That economic and environmental carrying capacities had reached critical levels was demonstrated with incredible force in the year 2008, which saw the convergence of the climate, financial, fuel and food crises.

Illusions that business-as-usual thinking and practice could continue were stripped away as national anxieties and social disquiet increasingly became regular conversation topics among different sectors such as governments, civil society, working families and businesses.

For a network such as the NGO Forum on the ADB, the regional situation in 2008 looked bleak at the same time as it appeared as one filled with opportunity. Flaws inherent in a system driven by profit accumulation and market imperatives were exposed and the need for greater public control over the production, distribution and consumption of resources was demonstrated with great clarity.

The 41st annual meeting of the ADB in Madrid, Spain marked the launch by acclamation of the ADB’s much criticized long-term strategic framework called Strategy 2020, which paves the way for the Bank to privatize the development agenda itself. It should be unequivocally clear, therefore, that the task of building social movements that can serve as counterweight to the steadily increasing sway the private sector holds over the development needs of entire peoples is urgent particularly so for the Forum. This the network has tried to accomplish over the years, including 2008, through its monitoring of projects, policies and programs of the ADB, the assembly of arenas of solidarity and by steadily building capacity among Forum members to strategically and effectively engage initiatives from financial and governance institutions whose operations potentially place at risk long-term community interests.

Transition to new leadership

After the successful staging of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) workshop in Sri Lanka in January 2008, which saw the participation of different social and environmental advocates in developing Asia, the network held its 2008 Forum Annual Meeting (FAM) in March Antipolo, Philippines which was attended by around 80 Forum members and which held sessions on different advocacy and work aspects of the Forum, including planning meetings for the Madrid AGM, a capacity-building session on fund-raising and a media training workshop undertaken with press representatives from different parts of developing Asia.

FAM 2008 saw the Forum general assembly elect a new set of representatives to the Forum’s International Committee (IC), composed largely of new officers (representing India and Bangladesh for South Asia, Cambodia for the Mekong, Tajikistan for Central Asia and the Caucasus, the Netherlands for the Forum’s Northern constituency, and a representative from the Philippines) and the retention of three IC members from the previous Forum board (Japan, Sri Lanka and Indonesia). The Forum’s new executive director (ED), Red Constantino, was introduced in FAM 2008 while Hemantha Withanage gave a moving farewell and began his one-month-and-a-half transition out of the Forum’s ED post. The new ED took over the reins fully on the first working day of June.

The election of the new IC ushered in a new mix of perspectives and activism given the diverse IC background. It also underscored the importance of the Forum’s gender agenda given that each of the elected IC members, including the ED as ex officio IC member, were men. The IC election outcome is a reminder to all Forum members of the importance of
gender consciousness particularly among the 2008 general assembly representatives that elected the IC members.

**Necessary adjustments**

It was a busy year for the Forum in 2008. Fortunately, despite the emergence of many significant challenges and the transition towards a new leadership, the network responded positively to the aims it set forth at the beginning of the year.

In order to maintain its relevance to its member organizations and to keep pace with institutional and programmatic changes in the ADB, a full Secretariat evaluation was undertaken in June and a network-wide evaluation process conducted soon after to build on positions of strength, sustain network diversity, consolidate network ranks and determine areas of work that deserved further development.

That changes were needed in order to keep pace with new realities was evident. The ADB itself has proven to be a resilient institution, repackaging itself as a solutions provider in response to the multiple crises confronting its developing member countries (DMCs). The ADB capitalized on economic and ecological debacles and re-positioned itself as a leading enabler of the economic ambitions of its DMCs. It was therefore crucial for the Forum to undertake an assessment exercise that could allow it to maintain a strategic voice in the development debate in the region.

Arising from the outcome of the Secretariat evaluation, adjustments began and largely concluded in July resulting in higher work efficiencies and output and modifications in the Secretariat structure and administrative processes and operations that helped the Secretariat to sustain strategic directions supplied by the IC. Rationalized were job descriptions, salary and benefit structure, Secretariat planning, thematic and regional working group coordination and outreach programs. Adjustments focused as well on developing ways of work that ensured steadily closer collaboration between the Secretariat and the IC.

The network-wide evaluation also produced considerable findings, which indicated practical ways forward for the Forum as well as challenges that impinged on the capability of the network to meet its long-term objectives. A five-team evaluation advisory group (EAG) was set-up composed of the Forum’s International Convener, the current Secretariat Executive Director (ED), the previous ED and representatives from 11.11.11 and Oxfam Australia. The EAG held numerous discussions and put together agreed concept notes, terms of reference, methodological recommendations, time frames and budgets. A three-member evaluation team was recruited led by an evaluation consultant from the Philippines and consultants from Australia and India.

In November the IC discussed the result of the Secretariat and network-wide evaluation exercises and issued a month later a document responding to the outcome. The IC largely welcomed the findings of the assessment initiatives but also provided nuanced responses to key points in the final evaluation outcome documents. The network evaluation looked back at the last four years.

Details of the network evaluation’s findings and recommendations have been distributed to Forum members and soft copies are available upon request. The IC Response has also been distributed to Forum members and is available to interested members. More in-depth discussions over the evaluation’s findings and the IC Response are scheduled at FAM 2009 which will be held at the end of April in Bali back to back with the annual meeting of the ADB.
Key events

The Forum participated in the 41st annual meeting of the ADB in Madrid, Spain in the first week of May with the participation of around 25 international Forum members largely from developing countries. A Spain and Europe coordinator for the 41st annual meeting of the ADB was hired in March and preparatory activities gained momentum in April. The stage swiftly moved to Madrid where plans were rolled out from April 30 to May 7. Activities included panel discussions with ADB management and Board members focused on the ongoing safeguards policy review, climate and energy, child labor, the Bank's long-term strategic framework, as well as a public forum with Spanish civil society tackling the food crisis, the climate crisis, gender and human rights.

Among the more important outcomes of the engagement was the announcement that the ADB, in line with CSO demands, would release a second draft safeguards policy statement, which would be available for public scrutiny and comment in a consultation event that was held later in November. After intense community-led protest campaigns against the scandal-infested Phulbari coal mine project in Bangladesh which the bank had intended to finance, ADB president Haruhiko Kuroda announced in Madrid that it had pulled out the project of its funding pipeline. This would have been roundly welcomed by the Forum had it not been for the caveat that Kuroda swiftly inserted when he explained that it would not finance the project "as currently designed", which to many left the door open for the ADB to reenter the project later.

Energy advocacy

The Forum engaged the energy debate in the bank by speaking and participating in the ADB's annual Asia Clean Energy Forum (ACEF) held from June 3 to 6 along with the first transport forum initiated by the ADB held in September. The Forum discussed the conflict between the Bank's climate change rhetoric and its continued funding of large hydro and fossil fueled power stations, particularly coal-fired power plants, and the energy policy options it was promoting in its DMCs.

The Forum released a study in July which discussed the ADB's decades-long financing of fossil fuel-promoting and greenhouse gas intensive transport-related projects and the resulting huge carbon footprint of the Bank. The Forum's study contested the ADB claim that the bank continued to significantly reduce its carbon footprint and revealed that the ADB was measuring only the energy impact of its headquarters. If the ADB's transport operations were considered, in addition to the dirty power projects it supported, it would show that the ADB was actually promoting greater fossil fuel consumption, which required wasteful energy intensive construction activities and which displaced and deprived entire poor communities of their livelihoods.

The Forum also maintained its monitoring of the Bank's so-called clean energy program, acquiring key information about the ADB's carbon computation methodologies and its energy lending performance. The Forum also maintained its pressure on the drafting of the ADB's energy strategy, which was later reclassified into a Bank-wide updated energy policy draft that would undergo the scrutiny of the ADB's Board. The Forum is presently resisting the attempt by the ADB to change its energy policy to allow for greater financing of coal mining projects.

Specific mention should also be made regarding the announcement by ADB president Haruhiko Kuroda in the Madrid AGM that it had taken out of its funding pipeline the scandal-infested Phulbari coal mine power project as a result of international CSO and community pressure, which the Forum had contributed to significantly. It must be said though that Kuroda added the caveat that the ADB would not support the Phulbari project.
"as currently designed" leaving the door wide open for the ADB to eventually reenter the project if the project design was changed or the bank's energy policy on coal mine financing restrictions were loosened.

Climate program

For the first time the Forum participated in the UN-organized climate negotiations held in Poznan, Poland from December 1 to 9. Around eight Forum people representing the Philippines, India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia and Kazakhstan participated in the climate talks and gathered invaluable international experience. It was a vital learning opportunity for the Forum which led to the crafting of different proposals designed to make the Forum's contribution to the resolution of the climate debate more nuanced, more targeted and more strategic.

Covered in the discussions and engagement were issues relating to future commitments of developed countries, adaptation funding needs of the most vulnerable countries and least developed countries, as well as the role of multilateral development banks such as the World Bank and the ADB in promoting or frustrating national action for mitigation and adaptation. The Poznan engagement of the Forum maintained a daily Poland dispatch maintained by the Forum delegation, with interaction from other members who were not present in the actual talks. The daily reports can be accessed through the Peoples Voice – Dispatches from the Field section of the Forum web. Forum members gained crucial working relationships and insights from key government negotiating teams involving countries such as Bangladesh, the Philippines, Armenia and the Kyrgyz Republic.

Safeguards focus

From May to November, after the ADB announced it was releasing a second draft safeguards policy statement (SPS) and holding an international public consultation in Manila on the paper as a result of the Forum's internationally led push against a dilution of the SPS. The Forum maintained pressure on the Bank and successfully pushed for an agenda, format and content scope of the consultations that could carry as much detailed comment from different stakeholders as possible. The international consultations was eventually scheduled in November 2008 and lasted almost four days in contrast to the initial offer of one day made by the ADB.

A flood of recommendations was generated indicating widespread dissatisfaction from different sectors, with the most input and organized engagement coming from the Forum. This was largely due to the success of coordinated discussions that the Forum had organized, from conference calls to the final intensive four-day international CSO strategy workshop participated in up to 25 CSO policy leads and community monitors right before the start of the ADB consultations. The workshop produced a 250-page comprehensive critique of the Bank's second SPS draft, which carried detailed arguments and textual alternatives to sections where dilution or harmful changes were in evidence. The preparation also resulted in a campaign innovation during consultation events, which showed content with role-playing preparations can prove really crucial to dramatically influencing consultative activity outcomes.

The ADB released the Working paper (W-paper) of its draft safeguards policy based partially on the outcome of the November consultations. The Forum immediately put together a W-paper advocacy instrument and organized meetings in Manila (including Europe and North America) with members of the ADB Board to push and promote remaining policy bottom lines and the likely conclusion that if the said bottom lines are not addressed the Bank's safeguards paper would be considered diluted and severely weakened and contradictory to the Bank's pronouncements.
The SPS is expected to be concluded in 2009. Though many of the eventual bottom lines that the Forum has pushed successfully received the support of both the ADB’s Board members and different stakeholders, the final outcome is still unclear and attempts to weaken the draft continue.

The Regions

Forum members were very active locally through self-initiated workplans. We encourage interested members to visit and scroll through the Forum website to see details of various advocacies led by network members, including updates to or results of project monitoring in different regions, which have either been displayed as front page stories on the Forum web or posted in the Forum in Action section. Below is a summary of regional highlights of more Forum-involved initiatives which took place in 2008:

In the Mekong the Forum held an orientation workshop in Phnom Penh in June attended by around 30 Cambodian NGO representatives in collaboration with the NGO Forum on Cambodia and Conservation and Development on Cambodia (CDCam). The Forum Secretariat undertook field work out of the Cambodian capital and met on-site with communities affected by ADB-funded projects such as Highway One and held meetings as well with Forum partners and allies in Phnom Penh.

The Forum initiated a scoping research a month later with the help of a Mekong-based professional in order to help determine the full shape and program of engagement of the network in the region. The study produced findings which indicated to the Forum the roles it can fill in the region, which would add value to the work local groups and international organizations were already engaged in on the ground. The study’s results were also in line with the conclusions of the IC later regarding the importance of revitalizing the network by focusing on building regional formations starting with priority regions such as the Mekong. The Forum is discussing closely with its partners details of support that will be required as the Forum’s Mekong Agenda steadily takes shape.

In January 2009, the Forum conducted a project investigation activity in Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville, Cambodia with key NGO representatives concerning railway and road projects.

In Central Asia and the Caucasus, the Forum’s regional working group remained active, holding a key three-day water forum in Astana, Kazakhstan hosted by the Forum’s members in Kazakhstan and which saw the active participation of Forum member policy leads from the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia. Different government representatives also graced the occasion and engaged in positive and spirited dialogue with the CSOs present. The water forum resulted in Forum members demonstrating great understanding of water issues and surfacing their role in promoting potential transboundary solutions to persistent problems through principled dialogue.

The Central Asia and Caucasus working group held its regular annual meeting in Issyk-kul in the Kyrgyz Republic where different regionally strategic issues were discussed along with capacity building needs and important activities related to thematic issues such as education, water, energy and official development assistance sourced through international financial institutions (IFIs). The regional working group also elected new members.

In March 2009, the Forum further expanded its Central Asia and Caucasus working group by conducting a very successful outreach program in Mongolia. The initiative was attended by over 40 Mongolian NGO representatives, almost all of whom were women. Involved were activities such as
institutional orientation regarding ADB policies, public participation and engagement with the Bank and the democratization agenda of the Forum, and project investigation in the field.

In Indonesia, the Forum held two important preparatory meetings in Jakarta, first in July and later in November. The first gathering saw the participation of around 30 Indonesians representing 15–20 Indonesian NGOs. Half of the participants were women. The objective of the gathering was to jump-start discussions surrounding the annual meeting of the ADB in Bali in May 2009 and to provide the basis for a far wider, geographically and gender representative Indonesian Steering Committee gathering in the last quarter of 2008. The Forum also met with different NGOs individually to drum up interest in collaboration regarding the 42nd annual meeting of the ADB and to reach out to new groups or engage previous members.

The first meeting paved the way for a successful November Indonesian Steering Committee meeting, which created stronger basis for Indonesian participation in the FAM and the ADB annual meeting period. In the first week of November, a more gender sensitive, geographically representative preparatory meeting of the Indonesian Steering Committee was held in preparation for the Bali events. The meeting saw the participation of around 60 Indonesians half of whom were women and half of whom were representatives of NGOs whose work was outside Jakarta. The preparatory workshop covered three days and resulted in detailed approaches, objectives set for greater geographical outreach to other Indonesian organizations that may be interested to push the progressive agenda further, and the flagging of orientation initiatives on the ground to ensure ownership of local organizations in eventual Bali plans and to begin discussions on which issues to focus on and carry forward with international groups, along with crafting the program for training Indonesian activists in IFI policies, programs and project monitoring.

During this period, Forum also supported and visited with the host organization an ADB-funded water project in Citarum, Indonesia to help stimulate advocacy in the locale.

In South Asia, the Forum contributed perspectives to an India-wide conference on international financial institutions and development aggression held in Nagpur, India in September. Forum shared updates on its advocacies and the need to craft strategies that redound ultimately to community interests.

With the participation of national and community organizations, the Forum followed this through also in September by helping co-organize an ADB orientation and climate training seminar in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Forum consulted with several NGOs working on IFI, energy and displacement issues and provided expert input to projects and policies that local organizations were engaged in. The Dhaka event was well-covered by the national press and was attended by around 50 representatives of various non-government organizations, over half of whom were women. The orientation covered the project processing cycle of the ADB, including a survey of other related ADB policy instruments. Participants learned more about the mechanisms within the ADB that could affect the outcome of community demands. This was followed by a workshop on climate change and development, where the impact of ADB's Strategy 2020 was dissected, questioned and criticized.

In the Philippines, a working group strategy meeting was convened in Manila in September to discuss updates since the 41st annual meeting of the ADB Madrid and to plan further joint activities in the Philippines. Discussed in the meeting were issue outcomes arising from the Madrid engagement, energy issues, debt and climate issues as well as the food crisis and the fisheries question. The meeting was composed of around 20 to 25 people. The meeting laid the basis for the participation of
Philippine groups in the Asia-wide public consultations on the ADB’s latest safeguards policy statement draft as well as climate negotiation issues that were anticipated to come into play in the approach to December 2008, when the international climate negotiations would be held in Poland.

Developing ways of work

Many of the advances that the Forum made had to do with the constant development of the network’s communications capability, particularly its electronic-based platforms, its publications and its press work.

Regarding the Forum’s advocacy through media, despite the fact that not a single press conference was held that was related directly to a network advocacy event, the Forum’s work resulted in the Forum’s issue pushing being covered by media at least once a month since May and sometimes once a week, which included presence in the coverage of international wires agencies and international papers such as the Financial Times and the leading papers in the Philippines. This includes broadcast coverage.

Building on existing network publications, the Forum has developed the substantive and aesthetic aspects of its hard copy material along with more targeted and strategic distribution, all of which continue to elicit very positive feedback both from members and non-members as well as stakeholders in the ADB and in government representatives where the Forum is present. Three issues with the new Bankwatch look were produced under themes devoted to the food crisis (2nd edition), safeguards (3rd edition) and climate change (4th edition). The Forum also released the development debacles publication Towards the Cliff, a consolidated report composed of case studies of ADB projects plagued with safeguards policy violations.

The website of the Forum is under continuous development, which now enjoys a constant stream of new stories from Forum members from different regions as well as features that attempt to address the basic information needs of Forum members, such as sections devoted to Forum-generated ADB facts and figures and the posting of very relevant reports not necessarily from the Forum but which cover many of the Forum’s priority advocacies such as energy, infrastructure, food and climate issues. The website also contains today a section maintained by the Forum’s international convenor and other IC members.

The Forum’s capacity-building work enjoyed probably its most fruitful year with expert training sessions held through the Secretariat’s internship program in Manila. Two batches for the program composed of interns from Central Asia and the Caucasus, the Mekong and Indonesia participated in the Forum’s dedicated learning program in 2008. The Forum also conducted field training (including new shorter internship program variations) in the Mekong and Central Asian regions. Continuous capability development-driven exchanges with members also contributed to strengthening member capacity throughout 2008 and in the first quarter of 2009, especially through the efforts of the new more appropriately re-named Network Capacity Development Coordinator (NCDC).

The year 2008 ushered in new engagements for the Forum. Canadian NGOs began renewed collaboration with the Forum’s advocacies, particularly its safeguards work. Through the support of Oxfam Hong Kong, the Forum was able to step into the climate debate in December and thus place itself in a position to start contributing to an enduring resolution of the climate debate beginning in 2009.

At the end of January 2009, the Forum recruited the experienced CSO monitor, activist and feminist Tea Soentoro (Indonesia) to take up the position of Network Advocacy Coordinator (NAC).
REPORT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of NGO FORUM ON ADB, INC. which comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 2008 and 2007 and the statement of revenues and expenses, statement of changes in fund balances, statement of cash flows for the years then ended, and a summary of significant policies and other explanatory notes.

The management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Philippine Financial Reporting Standards. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Philippine Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity’s preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design auditor procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity’s internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Redor, Emerson & Co.
Certified Public Accountants

Expenses under restricted funds account totaling Php 1,511,255.86 for the year ended December 31, 2008, were examined by another auditor whose report thereon expressed an unqualified opinion and has been furnished to us, and our opinion expressed herein insofar as it relates to the amount charged to funds for specified purposes account, is based solely upon the report of the other auditor.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of NGO FORUM ON ADB, INC. as of December 31, 2008 and 2007 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with Philippine Financial Reporting Standards.

Our examinations also comprehended the supplementary functional schedule of restricted funds for the year ended December 31, 2008. In our opinion, such supplemental statement, when considered in relation to the basic financial statements, presents fairly in all material respects, the information shown therein, as per existing records of the Organization.

Maria Dulsenea S. Samar
Partner
CPA Certificate No.: 081257
PTR No.: 1195861
January 8, 2009
Quezon City, Metro Manila
BIR Accreditation No.: 06-004313-1-2007

Note: The complete financial report is available in soft copy.

April 2, 2009
### 2008 Annual Report

**NGO Forum on ADB, Inc.**

(A Non-Stock, Non-Profit Organization)

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

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**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN BALANCES OF RESTRICTED FUNDS**

(All figures are in Philippine Pesos)

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**2008 Annual Report**

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- 35.825,000.00
- 34.925,000.00
- 33.025,000.00
- 31.125,000.00

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**Philippinethèse group**

- 38,000,000.00

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**Total**

- 39,000,000.00

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# NGO FORUM ON ADB, INC.

(A Non-Stock, Non-Profit Organization)

## STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES

### IN BALANCES OF RESTRICTED FUNDS

(in Philippine Pesos)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year ended December 31, 2008</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>OXFAM AMERICA</th>
<th>OXFAM Great Britain</th>
<th>OXFAM HK</th>
<th>OXFAM AUSTRALIA</th>
<th>OXFAM NOVIB</th>
<th>STITCHING BOTH ENDS</th>
<th>GLOBAL GREEINGRTANTS</th>
<th>C.S. MOTT FOUNDATION</th>
<th>11.11.11 FORD FOUNDATION</th>
<th>ACTION AID ASIA</th>
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**FUND BALANCES, December 31, 2008**

- 353,731.61
- 284,762.93
- 814,586.49
- 260,618.40
- 372,821.93
- 1,400,951.16
- 276,783.64
- 1,680,027.62
- - 12,779,283.78

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statement
Institutional background

The NGO Forum on the ADB is an Asian-led network of civil society organizations and community groups that have been monitoring ADB policies, projects and programs since 1992. The Forum is an arena of solidarity and it advocates greater democratic space for wider and more meaningful public participation and dialogue, access to information, good governance, and the promotion of social and environmental justice.

The Forum’s institutional objectives are the following:

Stimulate public awareness and action and develop closer working ties with other Asian People’s Organizations (POs), Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and other public interest groups on issues related to the Asian Development Bank.

Develop a cohesive framework and overall strategy for running advocacies involving ADB policies, projects and programs in coordination with partner NGOs and community-based organizations.

Sharpen public understanding and debate regarding the ADB’s growth-fixated, market-driven goals and its centralized, top-down development strategies.

Offer policy and institutional reforms and promote genuinely poverty reduction-focused, grassroots-based, sustainable development alternatives.

Assist local communities to achieve social and environmental justice.

Forum’s work focuses on developing the mechanisms to facilitate the functioning of the Forum’s five areas of activities: (a) information management and facilitation (b) policy research and publications; (c) support for communities adversely affected by the ADB projects, policies or programs; (d) capacity-building; and (e) advocacy support and network development.

The Forum publishes development perspectives from network members as well as critiques of ADB policies and programs. The Forum publishes a quarterly journal called Bankwatch along with guidebooks and thematic reports on issues and regional approaches of the ADB. The Forum initiates intra-NGO and multi-sector dialogue and helps organize meetings between community groups, CSOs, government officials and the ADB to bring specific issues directly towards open discussion.

The Forum was first established in 1992 as the NGO Working Group on the ADB by a coalition of Philippine and non-Philippine NGOs from Europe and USA. Since then, the network has expanded to include core members of the ADB-defined five Asian sub-regions and major donor countries such as Japan and the USA. The Forum was formally registered as the NGO Forum on ADB in 2001, under Philippine laws, with an International Steering Committee (IC) as its Board. The Forum holds its annual meeting often in March every year. It also holds two IC meetings annually. The Forum today has over 225 groups involved in ADB monitoring, representing over 25 countries.

Strategies employed by the Forum include advocacy engagement and campaigns with different officials, including the ADB Board, and involving region-wide participation of impacted communities and other members.

The Forum plays the role of bridging civil society and community groups with donor and developing country organizations and governments.
Postscript from Red

The work of the Secretariat is always a team effort though its members too often prefer to stay in the background while contributing solid work. This report is an opportunity to show highlights of what was accomplished in 2008 and to recognize as well the efforts that helped realize Forum aims courtesy of a shy but wonderful team composed of generous individuals who loyally kept watch over the network through interesting times and who have learned not only to use their wings but who continue to discover that their wing spans are far wider than they had previously thought them to be.

A high five to Jack Nicolas, the glue in the office whose wit and work has made the Secretariat’s job far more rosy and efficient; to Patty Rodulfa, an example to everyone of perseverance, dignity in work and reliability and whose constant solid support has allowed the Secretariat to pursue its goals effectively and with efficiency; to Abby Don, whose clandestine humor and quiet work has produced some of the best indicators of the Secretariat’s commitment to quality and relevance; to Romil Hernandez, for his infectiously spry and agile approach to almost everything and for keeping the network’s hub well-oiled and charged; to Maya, whose dedication, passion and independent mind is considered indispensable by the whole team, for continuously testing new boundaries and sharing her unique sense of wit ("piptee ...ee"); to Lala, for the youthful energy and motherly oversight and for using her finance and activist experience to help the entire Secretariat team to expand the horizon of the network; to Avilash for the spice of friendship, the constant mutton, and the scholarship he contributes time and again to everyone’s work; and to Tea, the newest member of the Secretariat, for the sisterhood, the brotherhood and the balance she brings to the Force.

Two other people fully deserve mention. For most of 2008, Ronnie Masayda was at the helm of the network’s advocacy; the Secretariat is most thankful for the time, effort and thinking that he contributed to help bring the Forum’s work to where it is today. A nod in the direction of Hemantha Withanage is also certainly in order: the Secretariat today stands on the immense contribution he has provided to the network in terms of stability and ambition.

Last and surely not the least, the Secretariat sends an embrace to the partners of the Forum for the sunshine, support and patience that they have generously contributed to the network: Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, 11.11.11., Oxfam Novib, Oxfam Australia, Oxfam Great Britain, Oxfam Hong Kong, Oxfam America, Ford Foundation, both ENDS, Global Greengrants Fund, and Action Aid.

As another graffiti message from 1968 says, "The freedom of others extends mine infinitely." You have all helped give meaning to our common work and we are most grateful. We hope we have provided you meaning as well. #
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
(2008-2010)

India
Wilfred D’Costa, International Convenor

Indonesia
Fabby Tumiwa, Treasurer

Central Asia and Caucasus
Parviz Umarov, Center for Development of Civil Society
Tajikistan

South Asia
Suranjan Kodithuwakku, Green Movement of Sri Lanka
Sri Lanka

Ahmed Swapan, VOICE
Bangladesh

Mekong
Pen Raingsey, NGO Forum on Cambodia
Cambodia

Philippines
Milo Tanchuling, Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC)

Japan
Yuki Tanabe, Japan Center for a Sustainable Environment and Society (JACSES)

Non-Regional Donor Member Countries
Pieter Jansen, Both ENDS
The Netherlands

Ex-Officio
Renato Redentor Constantino, Executive Director
NGO Forum on ADB

Complete financial report in CD

85-A Masikap Ext., Barangay Central, District 4,
Diliman, Quezon City, 1101 Philippines
Phone: +63-2-921-4412  Fax: +63-2-921-4412