

Principles of Collaboration for Country Safeguard Systems

between

The Asian Development Bank, The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Japan International Cooperation Agency & the World Bank

Background

The Asian Development Bank aims for an Asia and Pacific free from poverty. The Asian Development Bank operations are designed to support the three complementary agendas of inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration.

Further to its mission, The Asian Development Bank has an interest in collaborating with member governments, independent specialists and other financial institutions to focus on delivering projects in developing member countries that create economic and development impact.

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is the Australian Government agency responsible for managing Australia's overseas aid program. The objective of the Australian aid program is to assist developing countries reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development, in line with Australia's national interest.

Further to its mission the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has an interest in negotiating international agreements to implement its aid program.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency is a governmental agency that coordinates official development assistance for the government of Japan. It is chartered with assisting economic and social growth in developing countries. The Japan International Cooperation Agency is advancing its activities around the pillars of a field-oriented approach, human security, and enhanced effectiveness and efficiency.

Further to its mission Japan International Cooperation Agency has an interest in promoting of international cooperation in pursuing its program.

The World Bank is an international development institution established by Articles of Agreement adopted by its member countries. The World Bank's mission is to reduce poverty, improve living conditions, and promote sustainable and comprehensive development in the developing world. It achieves these objectives by providing loans, concessional financing, technical assistance, and knowledge-sharing services to its member countries and through partnerships with other organizations.

Further to its mission, the World Bank, through its Sustainable Development Network (SDN), has an interest in collaborating with other international organizations to address the global challenge of sustainable development in the developing world.

Implementation

The responsibility for the implementation of activities shall lie with the Parties, each of which has designated a representative.

Principles

1. The collaboration partners are the members of the Development Partners Safeguard Coordination Committee (DPSCC); which includes Asian Development Bank (ADB), Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia (DFAT), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and World Bank (WB) (and may expand to include additional partners), herein after referred to as the 'Partners' and individually each as a "Partner".
2. The Partners have a mutual interest in ensuring socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable growth in the Asia Pacific region and recognize that that country safeguard systems, covering environmental and social assessments that address potential risks and impacts of development programs and projects on the environment and affected communities, are a critical element for ensuring socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable growth.
3. The Partners have held discussions with a view to developing an agreed framework within which the Partners will commit to the strengthening and effective application of CSS in the countries of Asia and the Pacific. The framework approach is set out in the Country Safeguards Partnership Paper, which has been the basis for discussions amongst the partners. The collaboration will be developed in accordance with the paper which details the vision and outcomes that the collaboration will work towards. The framework approach will allow each partner to maintain their own assistance programs while working towards a common set of goals and outcomes. The Partners agree that collaboration will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of each Partner's resources in assisting the countries develop and improve their safeguard systems. The Partners have concluded that they should collaborate in the area of CSS, without creating formal obligations for any partner.
4. Under the collaboration framework the partners will assist with improvements to the legal and regulatory systems, as well as the implementation capacity of developing countries of Asia and the Pacific. The collaboration will improve the flow of information relating to CSS work amongst the partners, it will prevent the duplication of efforts and replication of previous work and will demonstrate a combined commitment by the partners to the use of CSS in Asia and the Pacific.

Review of Cooperation

5. The Partners will meet as required to provide regular updates on the results of the collaboration and cooperation. The partners will report to each other on the strategic direction of their institution and likely future areas of work; as well as the results of their existing CSS programs.

