

Our planet is not for sale! ADB Quit India! Quit Asia!

Wednesday 20 March 2013, by [Peoples Front against IFIs](#) (Date first published: 20 March 2013).

We, peoples' movements, mass organisations, struggle groups, trade unions, community organisations and many others from India and the Asia-Pacific region, call for a protest against the 46th Annual Board of Governors' Meeting (AGM) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Greater Noida, Delhi during May 2-5, 2013. The AGM will make decisions on key development issues for the Asia-Pacific region, that will affect all of us now and in the future. India, which is touted as 'the emerging power in the region' and in the ADB, is hosting the AGM for the third time to showcase and endorse a 'development through empowerment' model put forth by the ADB. In fact, over the years, the Indian ruling class has been working hand in glove with the ADB in a mutually beneficial complicity at the expense of hundreds of millions of poor, marginalised and other toiling sections of the society.

The ADB has earned the notorious title of actually being an "Anti-human Destructive Bank," whose devastating acts are not limited to India, but are evident across the Asia-Pacific region and also at the global level in collusion with the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other institutions of global capitalism. Likewise, our protest and resistance is not limited to the ADB but extends to all International Financial Institutions (IFIs) whose primary missions are to appropriate and commodify the natural, human and social wealth of the planet, and force nations into indebtedness and political subordination.

A self-acclaimed "development" financial institution, the ADB claims to combat poverty in the region. But its poverty reduction strategy is merely a masquerade for prescribing a doomed model of rapid economic growth powered by the privatisation, commodification and financialisation of natural resources and basic needs like water, power, education, etc. Under the guise of "good governance," the ADB supports profit-mongering, un-accountable and non-transparent private sectors. The Long-Term Strategy Framework (Strategy 2020) of the Bank is a recipe for the transfer of wealth, means and capacities from the poor and middle classes to the wealthy, upper classes. Using grand slogans such as 'inclusive growth', 'environmental sustainability' and 'regional integration', the Strategy 2020 focuses on private sector development and explicitly advocates private sector participation in ADB and borrower operations. In 2011, the Bank spent nearly \$6 billion as private sector finance. Not surprisingly, in India the number of billionaires rose from 2 with a combined worth of \$2 billion in the mid-1990s, to 46 in 2012 with a total net worth of \$176 billion!

With nearly \$22 billion in annual financial investment for nearly 350 projects (loans, grants, equity investments and Technical Assistance) in Asia-Pacific, governments have given the ADB a mandate to direct the development path for the region. Under the pretext of addressing environmental and climate crises and alleviating poverty, the ADB continues to displace and alienate large numbers of people from their lands, homes, water sources and forests, and violates their rights to livelihood, citizenship and participation in decision making.

Join hands against the ADB AGM

While it is our governments who borrow, the onus of debt repayment falls on the public exchequer

and the people of the country, and is transferred to subsequent generations and the environment. Debt repayment depletes scarce foreign exchange reserves, and redirects national revenues away from spending on essential public goods such as education, health, housing, water, sanitation, electricity and job-creation towards servicing an upward spiralling illegitimate debt.

The struggles, movements and campaigns against ADB funded projects in West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, J&K, Himachal Pradesh, and the North Eastern States take this opportunity to expose the ADB' collusion with the Indian Government to enable the concentration of wealth, resources and capacities in the hands of the economic-political elites. People led by vibrant struggles in these states to halt nuclear power, land and water grabbing, forced evictions, anti-people laws, farmers suicides and environmental destruction send out this appeal to challenge the asymmetrical, ill-designed and anti-people development prescriptions of the ADB.

The 2013 ADB AGM in Delhi offers a much-needed opportunity for us to come together to expose the destructive developmental model promoted by the ADB and our governments. We invite all of you to join us in voicing our opposition to institutions like the ADB, which mutilate our democratic institutions, perpetrate untold violence on our societies and foster continuing marginalization and pauperization of our peoples.

ADB QUIT INDIA! QUIT ASIA!

PEOPLES FRONT against IFIs

ENDORSED BY:

As of March 27, 2013 (to be completed)

India

Adivasi Moolvasi Astitva Raksha Manch (Jharkhand),
All India Forum of Forest Movements (AIFFM),
All India Union of Forest Working people (AIUFWP/NFFPFW),
ANBALAYAM - Pondicherry ,
Andhra Pradesh Muslim Organization,
Bongiyoo Paromparik Kaaru O Bastra Shilpi Sangho (West Bengal),
Behavioural Science Centre (Ahmedabad),
Bharat Jan Vigyan Jatha,
Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU),
CASA-ACT,
Chhattisgarh Mukti Morcha (Mazdoor Karyakarta Committee) - Bhilai - Chhattisgarh,
Citizens Forum for Mangalore Development,
Context India - Bangalore,
GM-Free Bihar Movement,
Haldia Dock Complex Contractors Shramik Union,
Himalaya Niti Abhiyan,
India FDI Watch,
Indian Social Action Forum (INSAF),
Indianoil Petronas Contractors Shramik Union,
Janpahal,
Kabani - the other direction,
Kisan Manch,

KisanSangharsh Samiti,
KSMTF - Kerala Fishworkers Forum,
Lok SHAKTI ABHIYAN,
Manthan Adhyayan Kendra,
Mines, minerals & People (MmP),
Nadi Ghati Morcha,
National Fishworkers Forum,
National HawkersFederation,
New Socialist Alternative(CWI-India),
Paschim Banga Khet Majoor Samity,
Posco PratirodhSangram Samiti (PPSS),
Radical Socialist,
River basin Friends,
South Asia Network on Dams,
Rivers &People - SANDRP,
Sundarban Banadhikar Sangram Committee,
Tamil Solidarity & others

Asia/International

Alternatives Asia,
Asia Europe Peoples Forum (AEPF),
Asia-Pacific Movement on Debt & Development (JubileeSouth),
CADTM International Network,
Europe Solidaire Sans Frontières (ESSF, France),
FOCUS on theGlobal South,
Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA),
Socialist Alternative (Australia)

Asian Countries

Bangladesh

EQUITYBD,
Humanitywatch,
Initiative for Right View - IRV,
Nabodhara,
Online KnowledgeSociety,
Participatory Research Action Network-PRAN,
VOICE

Indonesia

Solidaritas Perempuan

Nepal

All Nepal Peasants' Federation (ANPFA),
All Nepal Women's association (ANWA),
Forum for theProtection of Public Interest

Pakistan

Awami Workers Party,
Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum,
Umeedenao Citizen Community Board

Philippines

AMA- Aniban ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (Union of Agricultural Workers)

Sri Lanka

Centre for Environmental Justice/Friends of the Earth
Free Trade Union Centre
Federation of Media Employees Trade Unions
United Socialist Party

DRAFT PROGRAMME

PEOPLES FORUM against IFIs - May 2013, New Delhi

organised by: Peoples Front against IFI's

Venue: Auditorium - YMCA, Greater Noida (<http://newdelhiymca.in/gnpc.php>)

2 May 2013 (Thursday) - "ADB: Quit India & Asia!"

08.30 am: Demonstrations & protest meetings outside ADB-AGM venue (Greater Noida)

Protest demonstrations, public meetings etc. in different parts of India

OPEN FORUM: 01.30 am - 05600 pm: Understanding the Political Economy of IFIs

3 May 2013 (Friday)

08.30 am - 09.30 am: Demonstrations outside ADB-AGM venue

11.00 am - 01.30 pm: Panel on "ADB vision & mission - Alienating people and urban poor, encouraging private capital"

02.30 pm - 05.30 pm: Panel on "Contributing to Climate Change - ADB's Climate Hypocrisy"

4 May 2013 (Saturday)

08.30 am - 09.30 am: Demonstrations outside ADB-AGM venue

11.00 am - 01.30 pm: Panel on "ADB & natural resources: Resisting ADB's privatisation agenda"

02.30 pm - 05.30 pm: Panel on "Are IFI's accountable to citizen's & democratic institutions? Trade Unions and political parties demanding public oversight and social audit of IFI projects & programs"

5 May 2013 (Sunday)

08.30 am - 09.30 am: Demonstrations outside ADB-AGM venue

11.00 am - 02-00 pm: Concluding Open Session: "Ways forward in resisting IFIs - the struggle continues"

VIBGYOR - mini film festival: "Celebrating Resistances against IFIs & Globalisation" curated by filmmaker K P Sasi: 2 May - 4 May: 2.00 pm to 08.00 pm in "Meeting Room - P4"

Secretariat:

Indian Social Action Forum (INSAF)

New Delhi, India

www.insafindia.net
