



Asian Development Bank

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Cambodia Resident Mission  
BY:.....

21 March 2008

Mr. Chhith Sam Ath  
Executive Director  
NGO Forum on Cambodia  
No.9-11, Street 476  
Toul Tompoung 1, Phnom Penh

Dear Mr. Chhith Sam Ath,

**Re: Loan 1659-CAM: Phnom Penh to Ho Chi Minh City Highway - Issuance of the Project Completion Report**

1. Thank you for your letter dated 11 March 2008, regarding the issuance of the Project Completion Report (PCR) by the Asian Development Bank for the above mentioned project.
2. Kindly note that the Project Completion Report (PCR) has to be issued by the ADB 12 to 24 months after project completion (civil works completion). This is a mandatory requirement under ADB's Operations Manual (OM Section K1/OP paragraph 5) for operations evaluation purposes related to independent evaluation by ADB's Operations Evaluation Department. The project completion for the captioned project occurred on September 2005, and Loan Account was closed on 12 May 2006. Consequently, the PCR should have been issued at the very latest by September 2007.
3. In the letter of ADB's Cambodia Resident Mission (CARM) dated 15 March 2007 we noted: *"We accept your suggestion of not having a final closure of the Resettlement Audit Report and PCR until the outstanding issues are reviewed and finalized during the next tri-partite meeting between the NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGO Forum), IRC, and ADB."* In the same letter we also mentioned that: *"We note your proposal for submitting detailed dossiers of 93 APs by mid-April 2007, after your field investigation and verification of each of the cases. We very much welcome this proposal, but we also would like to reiterate the importance of keeping the indicated deadline for submitting all dossiers to us by 16 April 2007."*
4. Unfortunately, the detailed dossiers for the 93 APs were not submitted to CARM in accordance with this deadline. Following your letter dated 1 June 2007 and our letter dated 2 July 2007, only detailed dossiers for 55 cases out of the 93 cases were submitted to CARM. Moreover, according to IRC letters dated 3, 9, and 21 August 2007, respectively, CARM noted that the IRC tried to conduct a final tri-partite meeting during August 2007 between IRC, NGO Forum, and CARM, in order to finalize the remaining 93 cases, but you postponed the meeting (your letter dated 23 August 2007) without providing any meeting schedule.

5. Notwithstanding this, we delayed the issuance of the PCR until December 2007. The eventual issuance of the PCR at the end of 2007 reflected the ongoing resettlement issues (PCR paragraph 64 and Appendix 11 paragraph 6) and took due account of the progress made on the ground by the tripartite mechanism (IRC, NGOs and CARM). This progress is also evidenced by our other letter on the 93 cases which is being sent to you separately. CARM remains committed to resolving the remaining aspects related to the 93 cases.

Sincerely,



Arjun Goswami  
Country Director

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Attachment:

cc: H.E. Nhean Leng, Chairman, Inter-Ministerial Resettlement Committee, MEF  
J. Cooney, Director, SEID  
E. Sidgwick; R. Sabirova; A. Goffeau; N. Ouk; S. Ouk, CARM  
Marla Huddleston, Sr. Social Development/Resettlement Specialist, LRM