Civil Society Program – Learning with Partners

50th ADB Annual Meeting

Yokohama, Japan (24th March 2017)

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| 1. **Topic/Title/**
 | Promoting Inclusive and Accountable Public Services in Asia and the Pacific  |
| 1. **Date and Venue**
 | 5th May 2017, 3:30-5:00 PM, Annex Hall 205-206, Pacifico Yokohama  |
| 1. **Contact Person and Email**
 | Dr. Vinay Bhargava, vbhargava@ptfund.org Deepesh Paul Thakur, deepesh\_paul\_thakur@wvi.org  |
| 1. **Objectives of the Session**
 | A session convened by the **Partnership for Transparency Fund (PTF)** and **World Vision International (WVI)**, in collaboration with the **Open Government Partnership (OGP)** and **Asia Foundation** **(AF)** to; 1. Outline the inclusion challenges in Asia and the Pacific
2. Share civil society experiences and lessons in promoting inclusive development
3. Examine initiatives both inside and outside the Open Government Partnership that strengthen the citizen engagement for inclusive and Accountable Public Services
4. Explore model policy initiatives around inclusive and accountable public services that governments can implement in partnership with civil society
5. Generate ideas and recommendations for civil society and ADB to work together to promote inclusive and accountable Public Services in ADB developing member countries (DMCs).
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| 1. **Context**
 | In Asia and the Pacific, worsening income inequality and other forms of exclusion are a growing concern and a threat to social and political stability. Inclusive development is a major development priority in coming years and resonates with the ADB vision of an Asia and Paciﬁc region free of poverty and plans to make inclusion a key theme in the forthcoming Strategy 2030. The commitment to ‘Leave No One Behind’ has been a key feature of all the discussions around the Sustainable Development Goals and leaving no one behind (Inclusiveness) is a core aspiration of the resultant 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that the ADB has pledged to support. The idea that ‘no goal should be met unless it is met for everyone’ is well established in the rhetoric around the new goals. In theory of course, this means ensuring that every individual achieves the full package of rights and opportunities the SDGs express. The 2030 Agenda recognizes that the governments alone cannot achieve the SDGs and has set goals and targets for civil society engagement and partnerships. A strong set of policies and strategies are needed to end exclusion and promote inclusive, accountable public services. These include those that promote civic engagement and partnerships promoting good governance. Further, the ADB is seeking partnerships with civil society and private sector to tap into their knowledge and resources.With this background, demonstrating citizen engagement initiatives such as social accountability, opportunities facilitated by platforms such as the open government partnership and support as well as intent of critical institutions such as the Asia Development Bank, can provide inspiration and guidance for participants to pursue in their respective countries. It is also timely as it will provide useful inputs for the finalization of the ADB S2030. |
| **Description of the Session**This session will provide space for dialogue between civil society, government and multilaterals on means to promote inclusive and accountable public services, leveraging citizen engagement through social accountability tools and practices and civil society partnerships with governments and ADB. The session will commence with **Opening Remarks** by *Mr. Bambang Susantono*, ADB Vice President for Knowledge Management and SustainableDevelopment, **Asian Development Bank.** **Than a round table discussion** will follow and feature panellists from organizations with deep experiences in promoting inclusive services at country and regional level in Asia and the Pacific: **Moderator –** Dr. Vinay Bhargava, Chief Technical Adviser, PTF***Panellists Remarks-Round 1:*** 1. *Mr. Deepesh Paul Thakur*, Director of Advocacy and Justice for Children, South Asia and Pacific Regional Office, **World Vision** **International**
2. *Mr. Sanjay Pradhan*,Chief Executive Officer, **Open Government Partnership**
3. *Ms. Suzanne Siskel*, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, **Asia Foundation**

**Round 1 –Contributions from session participants*****Panellists Remarks-Round 2:***1. *Ms. Pia S. Cayetano,* Dy. Speaker, House of Representatives, **Congress of the Philippines**
2. *Mr. Dante de Los Angeles*, Executive Director, **PTF Asia Foundation**
3. *Ms. Amy Leung*, Deputy Director General, SustainableDevelopment Department, **Asian Development Bank**

**Round 2 – Contributions from session participants*****Closing Remarks- Moderator*** A summary of the discussion and emerging recommendations will be prepared and shared with the relevant ADB authorities as an input for the finalization of the ADB S2030 and made public via blog, social media and web posting.  |