

CSO Insights: A Listening and Dialogue Forum

15–16 September 2025

Ruby Function Room, 4th Floor, Holiday Inn and Suites Manila Galleria
One ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Philippines

FORUM AGENDA

Day 1 – Monday, 15 September 2025

Time	Session / Activity
8:30–9:00 a.m.	Registration
9:00–10:00 a.m.	Opening Plenary Session Part 1 – Solving Complex Challenges Together: ADB and Civil Society in Action <i>Overall Moderator:</i> <i>Rangina Nazrieva</i> , Senior Social Development Specialist, NGO and Civil Society Center (NGOC), Fragility and Engagement Division, CCSD <i>Speakers:</i> <i>Sharmin Khan</i> , Legal Consultant in Bangladesh, International Center for Nonprofit Law <i>Melina Tuiravakai</i> , Executive Member for Cook Islands Indigenous Women's CSO Au Vaine <i>Haidy Ear-Dupuy</i> , Unit Head, ADB NGO and Civil Society Center, CCSD <i>Lisa Kircher</i> , Senior Safeguards Specialist, ADB Office of Safeguards
10:00–10:15 a.m.	Coffee Break
10:15 – 11:15 a.m.	Plenary Session 1 From Policy to Practice – Civil Society Organization (CSO) Engagement in ADB's Safeguards Implementation <i>Organized by ADB Office of Safeguards</i> <i>Moderators:</i> <i>Lisa Kircher</i> , Senior Safeguards Specialist and <i>Pinky Serafica</i> , Senior Safeguards Officer Office of Safeguards
STREAM 1 – SECTORS & THEMES <i>Parallel Sessions</i>	
11:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m.	Parallel Session 1

CSO Insights: A Listening and Dialogue Forum

15–16 September 2025

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S&T Session 1: Tech for Inclusion – Empowering Persons with Disabilities Through Digital Innovations

Organized by ADB Digital Sector Office and Human and Social Development Sector Office

Moderator:

Louise McSorley, Social Development Specialist, Human and Social Development Sector Office, ADB

Speakers:

Ryan Gersava, Founder and CEO, Virtualahan, Philippines

Karla Henson, Executive Director, Life Haven, Center for Independent Living, Philippines

Sunghoon Kris Moon, Senior Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development Sector Office (for Digital Sector Office)

S&T Session 2: Cultivating Partnerships – Lessons from CSO Collaborations in Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development

Organized by ADB Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development (AFNR) Sector Office

Moderator:

Leah Arboleda, Senior Natural Resources and Agriculture Officer, ADB AFNR Sector Office

Speakers:

Aliya Mukhamedyarova, Unit Head, Project Administration, ADB AFNR Sector Office

Alexandre Sarmiento, Director, Carbon Offset Timor Foundation, East Timor

Phouthasinh Phimmchanh, Chairperson, and Ms. Chintanaphone Keovichith, Knowledge Management Officer and Project Manager, Lao Farmers Association

Dr. Santi Saypanya, Country Director, Wildlife Conservation Society, Lao PDR

Phetsoulaphonh Choulatida, Associate Project Officer, AFNR Sector Office, ADB Lao PDR Resident Mission

CSO Insights: A Listening and Dialogue Forum

15–16 September 2025

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12:30–1:30 p.m.	Lunch Break
1:30–2:45 p.m.	Parallel Session 2 S&T Session 3: CSOs and Urban Renewal – Inclusive Resettlement Planning and Livelihood Restoration <i>Organized by ADB Water and Urban Development Sector Office</i> Moderator: <i>Laxmi Sharma</i> , Unit Head, Project Administration, ADB Water and Urban Development Sector Office Speakers: <i>Sorin Chung</i> , Urban Development Specialist (Finance and Investments), ADB Water and Urban Development Sector Office <i>Dr. Mohammad Masudur Rahman</i> , Team Leader (Resettlement) and <i>Mr. Md. Anwar Hossain</i> , Chairperson, SAMAHAR Multidisciplinary Research and Development Foundation, Bangladesh <i>Dr. James Neil Devasahayam</i> , Technical Leader, World Vision India CSO Session 1: Voices from the Ground: Perspectives of Communities, Civil Society, and Workers on ADB's Just Transition Initiatives <i>Organized by Oxfam Pilipinas, International Trade Union Confederation-Asia Pacific, and NGO Forum on ADB</i> Moderator: <i>Joel Chester "Cheng" Pagulayan</i> , Oxfam Pilipinas Speakers: <i>Joy Hernandez</i> , International Trade Union Confederation – Asia Pacific <i>Miriam Azurin</i> , Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) – Asia Pacific <i>Maya Quirino</i> , Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center – Friends of the Earth Philippines <i>Nazareth del Pilar</i> , NGO Forum on ADB <i>Katherine Hughes</i> , Principal Climate Change Specialist, ADB Climate Change, Resilience and Environment Cluster <i>Jairus Carmela Josol</i> , Climate Change Officer, ADB Climate Change, Resilience and Environment Cluster <i>Priyantha Wijayatunga</i> , Senior Director, ADB Energy Sector Office
2:45–3:00 p.m.	Coffee Break

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15–16 September 2025

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STREAM 2 – CSO ECOSYSTEM

3:00–4:15 p.m.

Parallel Session 3

CSO Session 2: Promoting an Enabling Environment for Civil Society and Addressing Closing Civic Space Challenges

Organized by International Center for Nonprofit Law (ICNL)

Moderator:

David Moore, Vice President for Legal Affairs, ICNL

Speakers:

Sharmin Khan, ICNL's Legal Consultant, Bangladesh

Jose Enrique 'Sonny' Africa, Executive Director,
IBON Foundation, Philippines

Nidup Tshering, Senior Social Safeguards Specialist,
ADB Office of Safeguards

CSO Session 3: Community-led Innovation – Cost-effective and Sustainable Solutions for Resilience, Empowerment and Climate Action at the Triple Nexus+

Organized by Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN)

Moderator:

Takeshi Komino, Chairperson, ADRRN

Speakers:

Zenith Ballerta, Founder of House of Healing, supported by
Mayfourth Luneta, Deputy Executive Director, Center for
Disaster Preparedness, Philippines

Isti Winarni, Secretary of the Prima Gadung Youth Group,
supported by *Agnes Meiria Manggo*, Program Manager of
YAKKUM Emergency Unit, Indonesia

Edward Rees, Fragility and Resilience Specialist, ADB Fragile
and Conflict-Affected Situations and Small Island Developing
States Unit, Fragility and Engagement Division, CCSD

4:15–4:45 p.m.

Synthesis Session

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Moderator:

Rangina Nazrieva, Senior Social Development Specialist, NGO and Civil Society Center (NGOC), Fragility and Engagement Division, CCSD

Day 2 – Tuesday, 16 September 2025

Time	Session / Activity
8:30–8:55 a.m.	Arrival / Registration
8:55–9:00 a.m.	Recap of Day 1 and Announcements

Overall Moderator:

Emma Walters, Senior Social Development Specialist (Civil Society and Participation), NGO and Civil Society Center (NGOC), Fragility and Engagement Division, CCSD

9:00–10:15 a.m.

Parallel Session 4

Part 1, continued:

CSO Session 4: A Dialogue on Empowerment and Accountability – Strengthening Indigenous Peoples' Engagement with ADB

Organized by Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group (IPAG)

Moderator:

Maria Teresa 'Maty' Dominong, Regional Coordinator, Asia Indigenous Peoples Network on Extractive Industries and Energy (AIPNEE)

Speakers:

Norman Jiwan, West Kalimantan

Mel Tuiravakai, Cook Islands Indigenous Women's CSO Au Vaine

Ani Tuisausau, Climate Justice Working Group, Fiji

Dindi Tisha Samsuya, Senior Safeguards Officer, ADB Office of Safeguards

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CSO Session 5: CSOs as Third-Party Project Monitors

*Organized by Armavir Development Center, Armenia and
Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO),
Philippines*

Moderator:

*Arman Azizyan, Program Development Specialist, Armavir
Development Center*

Speakers:

*Aurora Chavez, Chairperson, CODE-NGO
Bryan Gonzales, Advocacy Officer, CODE-NGO
Sandino Soliman, Executive Director, CODE-NGO
Ani Tovmasyan, Project Manager, Armavir Development Center
Joel Syquia, Principal Public Sector Specialist, ADB Public
Sector Management and Governance Sector Office*

10:15–10:30 a.m.

Coffee Break

10:30–11:45 a.m.

Plenary Session 2

Leveraging Civil Society Innovations to Address the Triple Planetary Crisis

Organized by ADB Environment Division, CCSD

Moderator:

*Karen Grace Ochavo, Environment Officer, ADB Environment
Division, CCSD*

Speakers:

*Yoko Watanabe, Director, ADB Environment Division, CCSD
Glynda Bathan-Baterina, Deputy Executive Director, Clean Air
Asia
Batbayar Bold, Project Manager, Peatland Restoration, Wildlife
Science and Conservation Center of Mongolia
Vicross Angelo Yumol, Community Manager, Oceanus
Conservation, Philippines*

11:45 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Lunch Break

1:00–2:15 p.m.

Plenary Session 3

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Civil Society Voices in Modernizing ADB's Gender and Development Policy

Organized by ADB Gender Equality Division, CCSD

Moderators:

Lewelyn Baguyo, Social Development Officer (Gender and Development)

Tsolmon Begzsuren, Social Development Specialist (Gender and Development) and

Keiko Nowacka, Principal Social Development Specialist (Gender and Development)

ADB Gender Equality Division, CCSD

2:15–3:15 p.m.

Part 2 – Improving Results: Charting a Shared Path to Development Effectiveness and Advancing the SDGs

Roundtable Discussion

Moderator:

Haidy Ear-Dupuy, Unit Head, NGO and Civil Society Center, Fragility and Engagement Division, CCSD

Speakers:

Beatrice Gomez, Director, Office of Safeguards

Benjamin Graham, Director, Fragility and Engagement Division, CCSD

F. Cleo Kawawaki, Director General, Sectors Department 2 (Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development; Water and Urban Development; and Digital Technology for Development)

Priyantha Wijayatunga, Senior Director, Energy

Yevgeniy Zhukov, Director General, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department

3:15–3:30 p.m.

Coffee Break

3:30–4:45 p.m.

Part 3 – Listening for Impact: Civil Society Voices for Inclusive Futures

Interactive Workshop

Moderator:

Emma Walters, Senior Social Development Specialist (Civil Society and Participation), NGOC, CCSD

4:45–5:00 p.m.

Key Takeaways, Next Steps, and Closing Message

Benjamin Graham, Director, Fragility and Engagement Division, CCSD
