NGOs, Transnational Networks and Regional Governance in East Asia

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APEC, Pusan, Korea 2005

APEC Summit, Pusan, 2005

ADB Annual Meeting, Chiang Mai, 2000
The Rise of NGOs and Regional Activism in East Asia

• Greater number of NGOs in many East Asian countries

• Many new regional networks in many areas (human rights, environment, women’s issues, peace, trade)
Why the rise?

• Domestic factors
  – Democratization, More Political Space
  – Socio-economic Development, Rise of Middle Class, Post-Material Values

• International factors
  – The International Promotion of Civil Society and NGOs
  – Other Globalization Processes: Economic, Internet
Types of Groups and Governance

• Protest and Advocacy Groups
  – Agenda setting and identification of issues
  – Good governance: transparency, accountability, representation
  – Source of policy ideas and change
  – Source of institutional and political change

• Project Implementation and Cooperation Promotion (Service NGOs)
  – Service provision
  – Promotion of regional projects and exchange
  – Policy ideas and innovations
Asian Development Bank

• Protest
  – Local protest against ADB-funded projects (Representation, Transparency, Accountability)

• Advocacy
  – Institutional Change at the ADB (Transparency, Accountability, Representation, Institutional and Policy Change)

• Cooperation
  – Partnerships with the ADB: NGOs as project implementers, cooperation in the Mekong Region and Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion
# Protest of ADB-Funded Projects

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Project Location</th>
<th>Project</th>
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<tr>
<td>Early 1990s</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>Masinloc Power Plant</td>
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<td>Mid-1990s</td>
<td>Laos</td>
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<td>Mid-1990s</td>
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<td>Late 1990s</td>
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<td>Late 1990s</td>
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<td>Late 1990s</td>
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<td>Early 2000s</td>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>Phnom Penh Š Ho Chi Minh City Road</td>
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<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>Primary Road Restoration</td>
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<td>Early 2000s</td>
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<td>China</td>
<td>Highway Extension in Yunnan</td>
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<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Community Empowerment for Rural Development, South Kalimantan</td>
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<td>Early 2000s</td>
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<td>Tangguh LNG Facility</td>
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<td>Early 2000s</td>
<td>Mekong Region</td>
<td>Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management in Remote Watersheds of the Greater Mekong Subregion</td>
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<td>Myanmar</td>
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<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>Oil Palm Plantations</td>
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<td>Mae Moh and Ma Ta Phut Coal Power Plants</td>
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The ADB and NGO Advocacy

• NGO Forum on the ADB
  – Network that includes 300 groups and members in more than 30 countries

• Areas of Reform and Change
  – Environment policy, information disclosure, water policy, indigenous people and resettlement policies, accountability mechanisms, etc.

• ADB Annual Meetings
The ADB and NGO Collaboration

- Rising participation of NGOs in ADB-funded projects and technical assistance grants
  - 1980s less than 10%, from 1998 more than 50% (2006: 79%)
- Cooperation Agreement with World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
  - Mekong Biodiversity Conservation Corridor
  - Sustainable Fisheries in the Sulu Sulawesi Seas
Figure 1. ADB Loans with NGO Participation, 1990-2006, as % of total loans
Biodiversity Conservation Landscapes
ADB RETA 6213, GMS Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative

Legend
- Capital
- Major City
- Biodiversity Conservation Landscape
- International Border
- Provincial Border

1. Western Forest Complex
2. Inle Lake inundation cone
3. Cardamom and Elephant Mountains
4. Northern Plains Dry Forest
5. Eastern Plains Dry Forest
6. Tri-Border Forest
7. Central Arealites
8. Northern Annamites
9. Mekong Headwaters

Map showing the biodiversity conservation landscapes in the region with major cities and international borders marked.
Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion Priority Conservation Areas

Red: Outstanding in the Indo-Pacific

Orange: Outstanding in ecoregion

Green: Outstanding in sub-region

Blue Circles: large priority area

Yellow: Corridor