



FACT SHEET

GREEN BANKING BOOK LAUNCH

21 September 2007 ♦ 10:30 a.m. ♦ Ballroom 1 ♦ Mandarin Oriental Hotel

What is the 'green banking project all about?

'Green banking' is an initiative funded by the European Commission under its Asia Pro-Eco1 Programme to encourage members of ADFIAP and other financial institutions to integrate environmental concerns in their policies and practices, as well as when making loan decisions.

What is EGS?

EGS or the Environmental Governance Standards is a benchmark or a set of tools to guide banks and financial institutions in evaluating internal practices and loan proposals that affect the environment.

The EGS project is funded by a Euro 346,446 grant from the EU, which enabled ADFIAP and its partner organizations to conduct capability building workshops in Asia-Pacific, extensive research, and produce resource and trainers' books to aid the application of EGS in banks and financial institutions.

Who are involved?

Below are the organizations and their involvement in the EGS project:

- European Commission under its Asia-Pro Eco1 Programme – extended the grant;
- Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP), the 30-year-old umbrella organization of 83 member institutions from 37 countries in Asia Pacific with headquarters in Makati City – implemented the project, with the help of partner organizations;
- The Germany-based UNEP/Wuppertal Institute Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP) – conducted the research study and workshops on internal environmental management systems;
- The UK-based University of Leeds and University of St. Andrews – conducted the research and workshops on environmental risk aspects in bank lending decision.

Why is the project important?

The 'green banking' initiative is considered a milestone in Philippine development financing as it is the first time that banks and financial institutions are recognizing their responsibility in protecting the environment.

Banks can no longer ignore or neglect the environmental risks from their clients' economic activities such as polluting the air, illegally cutting trees, or contaminating rivers that lead to loss of franchise and brand reputation. These have an impact on banks' bottom line and can pose risks to the bank. However, these environmental issues can also present opportunities to develop new banking products, learn how to build environmentally based efficiencies into the bank's own operations, and enhance reputation.



For more information on the green banking initiative under the EGS:
email inquiries@adfiap.org or check out the website www.egs-asia.com