Panel joins other IAMs in Meetings with Chinese Government, Banking Representatives to Discuss Accountability

From left to right: Munawar Alam (ADB), Jan Mattsson (IPN), Osvaldo Gratacos (CAO), Gonzalo Castro de la Mata (IPN), Jin Liquin (AIIB), Hamid Sharif (AIIB), Dinding Tang (ADB), Kuan Chau (AIIB)

Inspection Panel Chairman Gonzalo Castro de la Mata and Panel Member Jan Mattsson joined representatives of other Independent Accountability Mechanisms in meetings with Chinese government and banking representatives on November 21 and 22 in Beijing to discuss the issue of accountability. They met on November 21 with officials of the Ministry of Finance and the Department of International Economic and Financial Cooperation to talk about the experience of the accountability mechanisms in ensuring adherence to environmental and social policies and providing redress to affected communities in the context of international investments by multilateral development banks and overseas investments by Chinese banks. On November 22, they took part in a one-day workshop with Chinese banks with substantial overseas investments in the context of the country’s One Belt, One Road Initiative to discuss adherence to highest environmental and social standards and the establishment of redress mechanisms. The workshop was organized by the China Banking Regulatory Commission, China Banking Association, the Green Finance Committee of the China Society for Finance and Banking, and the Greenovation Hub. In his presentation to the workshop, Mr. Castro de la Mata explained the Panel’s history, mandate and procedures and discussed the importance of adhering to social and environmental rules, and the business cost of not doing so. While in Beijing, the IAM representatives also met with Jin Liquin, president of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, to discuss accountability in the multilateral context. Joining the two Panel members at the meetings were Osvaldo Gratacos, vice president, Compliance Advisor Ombudsman, and Dinding Tang, chair of the Asian Development Bank’s Compliance Review Panel.

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