

Joachim von Amsberg
Vice President and Head of Network
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December 21, 2012

Robert T. Coulter
Executive Director

Armstrong Wiggins
Washington Office Director

Leonarda Crippa
Multilateral Development Banks Program Director

Indian Law Resource Center
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Dear Mr. Coulter, Mr. Wiggins and Mr. Crippa:

Thank you for your letter of December 5, 2012 to President Kim and the members of the safeguards review team. We appreciate your recommendations on how to better solicit the views, perspectives, and participation of Indigenous Peoples.

On behalf of President Kim, I would like to address some of the concerns you raised in your letter. We agree on the importance of face-to-face consultations, and we have placed a great deal of emphasis on in-country stakeholder meetings, both during Phase 1 and especially during Phase 2 of the safeguards review consultation process within available resources. With this in mind, we are scheduling extensive in-country meetings and will post the information on the consultation website shortly. The online platform is an additional tool to help us reach out to a broad range of stakeholders.

Also, as you may know, the World Bank has recruited an Indigenous Peoples Advisor who is expected to join in January 2013. The Advisor will be taking the lead on preparing a detailed plan for consultation with Indigenous Peoples as part of the Safeguards Review consultation process. We will seek your feedback and that of Indigenous Peoples networks on this plan.

We hope to hear from Indigenous Peoples leaders and representatives not just on the Indigenous Peoples Policy, but on all the safeguards-related and emerging issues. In terms of how stakeholder input is used through the course of the review, we will prepare a matrix which will be publicly disclosed. This matrix will include all the input we receive through the consultation process, and will note what we have been able to incorporate, what we could not incorporate, and why.

We are also seeking the advice of our regional Indigenous Peoples experts about Indigenous Peoples groups whose views should be sought during the review and update period. Depending on funding and preferences, we hope that Indigenous Peoples can participate in a multi-stakeholder meeting (if one is organized in the relevant country), or a bilateral meeting.

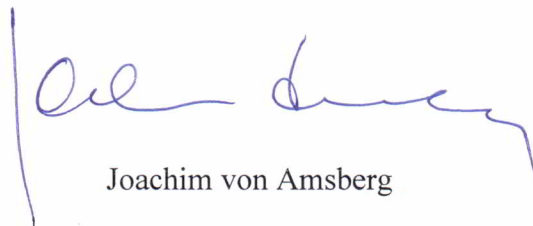
In addition, we plan to seek direct engagement with Indigenous Peoples leaders through the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Council, the new mechanism designed to promote an ongoing dialogue between the World Bank and self-selected Indigenous Peoples leaders. The Advisory Council will be launched in May 2013 during the UN Permanent Forum. It can serve as a channel for us to engage on the review and update of the safeguards policies in an iterative manner throughout the entire review and update period and beyond.

Furthermore, we are happy to note that several members of the safeguards review team recently met with Indigenous Peoples' leaders attending the Forest Carbon Program Facility dialogue in Doha to hear their views on how the Indigenous Peoples' policy should be revised.

Finally, we have been engaging in internal discussions on the topic of free, prior, and informed consent and will hold a focus group of 10 to 12 external experts on this topic to seek their views on how the World Bank may approach this matter. We anticipate this group will come together in February 2013, in the Latin America and Caribbean region (tentatively Peru). More information about the focus group meetings will be available on the safeguards consultation website shortly.

Again, thank you for sharing your views. We look forward to your continued engagement in this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joachim von Amsberg', with a vertical line to the left of the signature.

Joachim von Amsberg