



Media Statement

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Complaint regarding IFC-financed Sihanoukville International Airport in Cambodia

Washington, D.C., March 4, 2010 – The Compliance Advisor/Ombudsman (CAO), the independent recourse mechanism for the International Finance Corporation (IFC), is assessing a complaint lodged by local communities in Cambodia regarding development of Sihanoukville Airport.

The complaint, filed to the CAO in December by a local organization on behalf of 79 families, raises a number of concerns. The CAO commenced assessment of the complaint in January 2010.

According to IFC's website (www.ifc.org), IFC has provided financing to Société Concessionnaire de l'Aéroport (SCA) that involves capital expenditures and runway investments for Sihanoukville International Airport.

"CAO makes no judgment about the merits of the issues raised in the complaint at this stage" commented Meg Taylor, CAO and Vice-President. "An initial assessment is underway with the cooperation of all the parties involved and the CAO's role will be to help explore options for resolution."

Update March 18, 2010: Due to upcoming Cambodian public holidays, the CAO will schedule its site visit for meetings with local stakeholders no earlier than May.

Further details on this case are available at: www.cao-ombudsman.org

The Office of the Compliance Advisor/Ombudsman (CAO) is the independent recourse mechanism of the private sector lending and insurance arms of the World Bank Group—the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA). Established in 1999, the CAO reports directly to the President of the World Bank Group. CAO's mandate is to assist IFC and MIGA in addressing complaints by people affected by projects in a manner that is fair, objective, and constructive in a way that enhances social and environmental outcomes on the ground and fosters greater public accountability of IFC and MIGA.