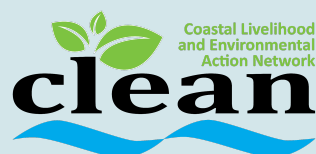


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**VOICES FROM CIVIL SOCIETY AT THE
10TH AIIB ANNUAL MEETING**

24 - 26 June 2025 | Beijing, China

Coastal livelihood and Environmental Action Network (CLEAN)



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10th AIIB Annual Meeting

Voices from the Civil Society

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The AIIB Annual Meeting 2025 provided a significant global platform for dialogue between governments, financial institutions, and civil society actors on sustainable infrastructure and development pathways. In this context, Coastal Livelihood and Environmental Action Network (CLEAN), alongside allied civil society organizations (CSOs), actively participated in a series of strategic engagements aimed at strengthening accountability, transparency, and inclusive decision-making within the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). CLEAN has been participating in the AIIB Annual Meeting over the past decade, engaging in policy advocacy and raising critical issues.



Photo: 10th AIIB Annual Meeting 2025 [CSOs with CEIU Unit]

Throughout the programme, CLEAN and its partners engaged in multiple sessions, including WtE project-focused discussions, policy advocacy meetings, and formal dialogues with AIIB Board members, Executive Director's Panel, senior management. These engagements created critical opportunities to bring forward grassroots perspectives, particularly from communities affected by large-scale infrastructure and energy projects in Bangladesh.

A key highlight of the programme was participation in the Management Dialogue with Civil Society Organizations, where Hasan Mehedi, Chief Executive of CLEAN, delivered an intervention on behalf of civil society stakeholders. In his remarks, he raised serious concerns regarding the North Dhaka 42.5 MW Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Project, emphasizing its potential adverse social, environmental, and economic impacts. The intervention underscored several pressing issues. First, concerns were raised about the lack of meaningful consultation with local communities, particularly those directly



affected by land acquisition, pollution risks, and displacement. Second, the project's environmental implications such as air pollution, toxic emissions, and long-term waste management challenges were highlighted as significant risks that contradict sustainable development principles. Third, the economic viability of such projects was questioned, especially in the context of Bangladesh's evolving energy transition and the global shift away from waste-to-energy models that rely heavily on incineration.



Photo: 10th AIIB Annual Meeting 2025 [Management Dialogue with CSOs]

CLEAN and partner CSOs also used the platform to advocate for stronger institutional accountability within AIIB. They called for improved transparency in project selection, financing mechanisms, and environmental and social impact assessments. The delegation emphasized that without robust safeguards and inclusive participation, infrastructure investments risk exacerbating inequality, environmental degradation, and financial burdens on developing countries.

In addition to formal sessions, lobby meetings, informal bilateral discussions were held with the President of AIIB, AIIB Board members, board of Executive Directors, management representatives and CSOs. These exchanges allowed civil society actors to present evidence-based concerns, share field-level experiences, and propose alternative approaches centered on renewable energy, decentralized solutions, and community-led development models.



A major outcome of the programme was the strengthened recognition of civil society's role in development finance processes. The coordinated advocacy efforts contributed

to reinforcing demands for structured engagement mechanisms between AIIB and CSOs, ensuring that affected communities are not excluded from decision-making processes that directly impact their lives and livelihoods.



Furthermore, the programme facilitated networking and coalition-building among regional and international CSOs. This collaboration is expected to enhance future joint advocacy efforts, knowledge sharing, and coordinated actions targeting multilateral development banks and large-scale infrastructure projects. Civil society engagement

with the AIIB Annual Meetings remains limited, fragmented, and largely symbolic, despite the Bank’s stated commitment to transparency and inclusive development. While some spaces exist for participation through side events and written submissions, these opportunities rarely translate into meaningful dialogue or influence over decision-making. CLEAN and allied civil society actors have consistently engaged in parallel advocacy efforts, raising concerns about AIIB’s continued financing of fossil fuel infrastructure, waste-to-energy projects, and large hydropower schemes that often overlook environmental safeguards and community rights.

Overall, the Annual Meetings continue to reflect a controlled engagement model that prioritizes institutional image over accountability. Civil society inputs are often acknowledged but not effectively integrated into project design or policy reform. As a result, there are growing calls for stronger disclosure standards, enforceable accountability mechanisms, and direct participation of affected communities. Without such reforms, the meetings risk remaining symbolic platforms rather than spaces for genuine influence and democratic engagement.

In this context, CLEAN’s engagement at the 10th AIIB Annual Meeting represented a constructive step toward advancing people-centered and environmentally responsible development. By connecting local experiences with global financial discussions, CLEAN helped amplify community perspectives, question unsustainable investment pathways, and advocate for greater transparency and accountability within international financial institutions. These efforts continue to shape CLEAN’s broader advocacy to ensure development pathways remain equitable, sustainable, and aligned with both people and the planet.

Participants from CLEAN:

1.	Hasan Mehedi	Chief Executive, CLEAN
2.	Kaniz Rabeya	Communications Coordinator, CLEAN