



# World Bank Update

## PARLIAMENTARY NEWSLETTER

April 2010



*President Zoellick with Hon. Jeppe Kofod at Danish Parliament*

### OPENING THE BANK TO PARLIAMENTARY CHAMPIONS

On 26-27 April, 2010, the World Bank External Affairs' parliamentary team is organizing a training program for Parliamentarians, parliamentary staff and parliamentary organizations, focusing on the role of the World Bank in International Development. The idea for the training stems from a growing demand for deeper knowledge of the World Bank from members of the Board of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB), and other partner parliamentary organizations as well as MPs engaged in development. The program is tailored to the needs of parliamentarians. Training modules include an overview of World Bank Group (WBG) engagement with MPs; the role of the WBG at the country level; the role of the WBG in providing Global Public Goods; how the WBG is funded and governed; and the transparency and accountability mechanisms of the WBG – all elements explaining why the World Bank is the world's premier development institution. The program will also provide examples of how Parliamentarians can engage with the daily work of the WBG.

and 25 in Washington, DC. The Development Committee - which mandate is to advise the Board of Governors of the World Bank and the IMF on critically important development issues and on the financial resources required to promote economic devel-



opment in poor and middle income countries - will meet on April 25. Committee members will discuss how to best adapt the World Bank Group to a post crisis environment, focusing on the post-crisis strategy for the institution; reform; and resource needs. More on accreditation and online registration at <http://go.worldbank.org/RHI8Z0WBU0>

### FROM THE REGIONS

Please find below a selection of activities undertaken by country offices over the last month.

**Austria** - On Thursday, February 25, 2010, three World Bank Directors (Axel Peuker, Stefan Koeberle and Hartwig Schaefer) met with Austrian Members of Parliament from the Parliamentary Sub-Committee for Development at the Austrian Parliament in Vienna. On invitation of Committee Speaker Petra Bayr, a group of five MPs (Christine Muttonen, Christoph Matznetter, Johannes Huebner and Sigisberg Dolinschek) met with the Bank delegation to discuss its changing role in climate financing and the

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### WB/IMF SPRING MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON

The 2010 World Bank and International Monetary Fund Spring Meetings will take place on April 24



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financial crisis. For more information, please contact [kkemppainenbertr@worldbank.org](mailto:kkemppainenbertr@worldbank.org).



*Picture Courtesy of Luca Faccio*

**D**enmark - On March 25, World Bank President Robert B. Zoellick met with members of the Foreign Policy Committee in the Danish Parliament. President Zoellick briefed the attending Members of Parliament on the World Bank Group's response to the food and financial crises; the efforts made by the WBG to address climate change through amongst others the Climate Investment Funds; the ongoing reforms at the WBG, including governance reform in order to secure a stronger voice for developing countries on the Board of the World Bank; and the need to provide fresh resources for the WBG, both through the 16th IDA replenishment, and through a selective Capital Increase, the first in 20 years. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Jeppe Kofod, Member of the Danish Parliament and of the PNoWB. Members of Parliament expressed support for a strengthened voice for developing countries on the Board of the World Bank, and were in addition interested in the WBG's energy policy, calling for a strong focus on renewable energy; and also en-

couraged the World Bank to promote agricultural development. President Zoellick welcomed the engagement of Members of Parliament, and also encouraged Danish Parliamentarians to work with parliamentary colleagues in developing countries, to help them engage with the World Bank and with development issues at large. For more information, please contact [jkopperud@worldbank.org](mailto:jkopperud@worldbank.org)

**F**rance - On March 2 in Paris, Axel Van Trotsenburg, and the World Bank's Vice President for Concessional Finance and Global Partnerships, updated PNoWB's Board on the IDA replenishment process ahead of the first IDA deputies meeting in Paris on March 3rd and 4th. Participating in the monthly PNoWB Board conference call, Mr. Van Trotsenburg provided insights on the replenishment process as well as milestones for outreach during the IDA 16 replenishment campaign. The PNoWB Board and Mr. Van Trotsenburg then held open discussion about areas for cooperation and mutual support in the run up to IDA replenishment. For more information please contact [jkopperud@worldbank.org](mailto:jkopperud@worldbank.org)

**F**rance - On March 3-4 in Paris, Inter-parliamentary associations gathered to assess progress on reaching consensus on assessment frameworks for democratic legislatures – a pillar of representative democracy – during the International Conference on Benchmarking and Self-Assessment for Democratic Legislatures. While there is broad international agreement, for example, on standards

for democratic elections, international benchmarks on other democratic processes and institutions are still emerging. Organized by WBI, UNDP, and six partners, the conference drew on pioneering work from the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), the Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF) and others. Participants adopted a statement with a series of recommendations for parliaments, parliamentary strengthening organizations, and donors. For more information please contact [lvontrapp@worldbank.org](mailto:lvontrapp@worldbank.org)

**F**rance - On March 16, seven country Offices in Africa: South Africa, Kenya, Ethiopia, DRC Congo, Ghana, Senegal, and Mozambique, connected and joined World Bank Chief Economist for the Africa Region, Shanta Devarajan for a briefing via VC from Paris. A panel of distinguished guests from civil society, academia and Parliaments participated in a debate on the most interesting points of this year's African Development Indicators. Mr. Devarajan went over the topic of the essay --Quiet Corruption-- and some of the most poignant data.

**M**alawi - For the first time in Malawi, consultations on national budget support between donors and Government have included Members of Parliament and Civil Society. Previously, donors would consult stakeholders separately, but now the group of donors who provide budgetary support to Malawi through what is called the Common Approach to



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Budgetary Support (CABS) will hold discussions together with MPs. Applauding this new arrangement at the opening of the second CABS main review meetings (March 16-18, 2010), Malawi's Deputy Minister of Finance Frazier Nihorya said such transparency will empower other stakeholders to meaningfully engage in the CABS processes. The World Bank, Germany, Norway, and UK are part of CABS. For more information, please contact [zbanda@worldbank.org](mailto:zbanda@worldbank.org)

**Philippines** - A Knowledge for Development Center (KDC) was launched at the House of Representatives in Philippines last February 3. It is the 12th such facility in the country. KDCs are information centers and hubs for development dialogue and partnership set up by the World Bank and knowledge institutions. The KDC at the House of Representatives is the only one in a non-academic setting, but unique and important because it is located within one of the country's most important knowledge centers - the House of Representatives. It is supported by global organizations, namely The Asia Foundation, the United Nations Information Center, World Health Organization Western Pacific Regional Office, and the Asian Development Bank. For more information see <http://go.worldbank.org/M6UUT6B9H0> or contact [menerva@worldbank.org](mailto:menerva@worldbank.org)

**Turkey** - Funded by the Governance Partnership Facility (GPF), the New Public Financial Management Program on which the Bank collaborates with the Turkish authorities

includes a component to support the promotion of good governance by strengthening the capacity of the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA) in public expenditure oversight. The World Bank and TGNA have agreed to undertake a needs assessment (budgetary roles, responsibilities and functions of the Parliament) and a gap analysis (challenges posed by the new public financial management and control framework). In February, a first mission interviewed parliamentarians (governing and opposition parties), civil servants and members of civil society organizations. All parliamentarians identified the need for timely, short and thorough information on the budget and final accounts. The capacities of technical personnel, current administrative structure and proposed changes, as well as the quality of materials from outside sources, were issues identified by the interviewees. A second mission will provide an opportunity to discuss these findings and share international experience with the stakeholders through a tailored workshop. For more information, please contact [strenner@worldbank.org](mailto:strenner@worldbank.org)

**SELECTION OF UPCOMING  
ACTIVITIES FOR  
PARLIAMENTARIANS**

**For more information on these activities, please contact [mtixeront@worldbank.org](mailto:mtixeront@worldbank.org). E-courses can be found on [www.parliamentarystrengthening.org](http://www.parliamentarystrengthening.org).**

## *Consultations on Country Assistance Strategies (CAS)*

The World Bank regularly engages parliamentarians and other constituencies during consultations on the Country Assistance Strategies (CAS). In April, the Board is scheduled to review the CASes for the Ivory Coast, Kenya and Sierra Leone as well as the Interim Strategy Note (ISN) for the Solomon Islands. In all these countries, members of parliament were involved in CAS consultations.



In the Ivory Coast, the Bank country team met with the president of the West Africa Parliamentary Network on the World Bank, Daleba Zozoro Jules during consultations in early February 2010. He highlighted the need to build the parliament's capacity for oversight of the executive and for monitoring the governance reform program. The Country team also met with members of parliament representing the different political parties in the context of the President Zoellick's visit to the Ivory Coast late January 2010

## *April 7-9 - Accountability Conference in South Africa*

The World Bank, in collaboration with the African Association of Supreme Audit Institutions-Anglophone Countries (AFROSAI-e), will host this Workshop on Accountability and Integrity in Government Spend-



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ing in Johannesburg. It is organized by Financial Management (FM), with input from the Parliamentary Oversight Program of the World Bank Institute. Participants will represent public accounts committees (PACs) responsible for the oversight of public expenditure, supreme audit institutions (SAIs), anti-corruption agencies (ACAs), the regional networks with which these organizations are affiliated, and major international donors in Africa

of China's economy, finds that the massive investment-led stimulus was the key factor driving the economy last year. More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/40UYFXDOD0>

invest considerable effort in reaching out to a range of different players and communities, including Parliamentarians. Given the wide range of stakeholders involved in the debate on conflict, several complimentary approaches will be used to ensure that a sufficient number of actors are consulted over the 18-month WDR cycle. More information at [www.worldbank.org/wdr](http://www.worldbank.org/wdr) 2011

## NEWS

### *World Bank Education Strategy 2020*



The Bank is currently undertaking global consultations on a number of policy issues, including environment, energy and trade policies. Consultations on the Bank's new Education Strategy has just started and will be finalized in November 2010. The Bank is in the early stages of the consultation process, geared to elicit the views and experiences of key stakeholders, as this strategy will shape the overall direction of the World Bank's work in education for the next decade. More information at [www.worldbank.org/educationstrategy](http://www.worldbank.org/educationstrategy)

### *World Bank's New Results Website*

The World Bank recently launched a Result website in English, French, Spanish and Arabic. The new site chronicles the Bank's positive development impact in low-and middle-income countries through statistics, stories, multimedia, and an interactive timeline. The site provides results evidence at the country, sector, and project levels, as well as uses geo-mapping technology to pinpoint projects throughout the globe. For more, see [www.worldbank.org/results](http://www.worldbank.org/results)

## PUBLICATIONS

### *Quiet Corruption Undermining Development in Africa*

The Africa Development Indicators (ADI) is the flagship report of the World Bank's Africa Region. The focus of the ADI 2010 which was launched on March 15th is "quiet corruption". This is the failure of public servants to deliver goods or services paid for by governments, a problem which is pervasive and widespread across Africa and is having a disproportionate effect on the poor, with long-term consequences for development. <http://go.worldbank.org/RGRGCTXY80>

### *China: Macro Risks and Renewed Focus on Structural Reforms*

Despite the global recession, China's economy grew 8.7% in 2009, and the growth momentum continued in the first months of 2010, according to the Bank's latest China Quarterly Update, released on March 17. The Update, a regular assessment

### *Conflict, Security & Development*

The goal of the World Development Report 2011 is to contribute concrete, practical suggestions to the debate on how to address conflict and fragility. Since solutions involve cooperation between a wide variety of actors at local, national, regional and global levels, the WDR process will

### *Agora Launch*

UNDP and partners recently launched Agora a new on-line portal -<http://www.agora-parl.org>- for parliamentary development, at the French National Assembly on March 2. The World Bank Institute (WBI) joins UNDP, International IDEA, and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) as members of the Agora's implementing board. The portal aims to bring together multiple actors, to be the world's premier resource for information on parliamentary development, and to facilitate active collaboration within the global parliamentary development community of practice.