



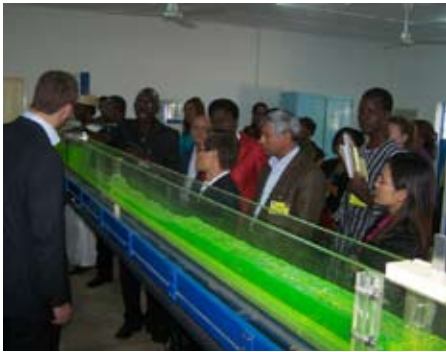
World Bank Update

PARLIAMENTARY NEWSLETTER

December 2009 - January 2010



Burkina Faso: Delegates and Prime Minister



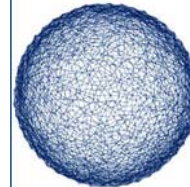
Delegates in Burkina Engineering Center

FIELD VISIT TO BURKINA FASO

Sixteen Parliamentarians led by Honorable Ndèye Fatou Touré, MP, Sénégal, PNoWB Board Member and Honorable François Loncle, MP, France, visited Burkina Faso from 29 November to December 4th. The delegation's visit focused on the following four themes: the impact of the global financial crisis; decentralization and social accountability; mining/extractive industries revenue management and the investment climate. The delegation had the opportunity to visit World Bank supported projects in Ouagadougou, Ziga and Zignaré. They had several meetings with key stakeholders: private sector representatives, civil society as well as working sessions with the Parliament's finance committee and the PNoWB local chapter. The delegates also paid a courtesy visit to the Speaker of the National Assembly Rock Marc Kaboré and on the final day of the visit, they had a unique opportunity to share their impressions on the country's development efforts with Burkina's Prime Minister Tertius Zongo. "I now realize how important it is for our countries to channel development aid through the World Bank. Burkina Faso needs not only the funds but expertise from the World Bank which works with local and international experts in the field to meet the needs of the most vulnerable populations. I will pledge for more support

for Africa through the World Bank in my own country" said Canadian MP Dave Wilson who was visiting Africa for the first time. Besides the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB), the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and the Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF) also partnered on recruiting participants for the visit.

COP15



UNITED NATIONS
CLIMATE CHANGE
CONFERENCE
DEC 7-DEC 18
2009

On 11 December, the World Bank's leading climate expert Dr Ian Noble facilitated a virtual meeting on progress made at the climate change meeting and on the role that Parliaments and Parliamentarians can play post-Copenhagen. Parliamentarians from across the Commonwealth and those already in Copenhagen were joined by climate negotiators and representatives from the Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa (AWEPA), the Commonwealth Secretariat, and the World Bank.

More information at <http://www.cpahq.org/cpahq/mem/default.aspx>

TABLE OF CONTENT

- Feature Stories	Page 1
- From the Regions	Page 2
- Upcoming activities for Parliamentarians	Page 3
- Publications	Page 4
- News	Page 4



World Bank Update

FROM THE REGIONS

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

New-York, U.S. - At the request of the Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations, World Bank Director Peter Stephens (Operational Communications) addressed the participants of this annual event about IFI reforms during a session on transparency and accountability of financial systems. He discussed among others the new Bank's access to information strategy and reforms in the field of voice and representation. The Parliamentary Hearing is organized by the IPU and the UN and is an interactive discussion with high-ranking UN officials, representatives of Member States and experts drawn from think tanks and civil society organizations. This year the event ran from 19 to 20 November and the theme was "The Way Forward - Building political support and implementing effective responses to the global economic crisis".

For more information please contact elorenzana@worldbank.org

Madrid, Spain - On Dec. 15, the World Bank was invited to an audience with the Spanish Parliamentary Committee on Development in Madrid, as a follow-up to the Committee's visit to the World Bank Headquarters in early November. On that occasion, MPs had had a chance

to meet with Senior Management to discuss progress on voice and capital increase, the road to IDA16 replenishment, regional programs in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Bank's role in tackling the crisis. The audience in Madrid was attended from the Bank's side by Special Representative to Europe Cyril Muller, Massimiliano Paolucci and Julia Barrera. From Spain, the President and Vice-President of the Committee, Delia Blanco and Gabino Puche, Socialist party spokesman for development Joan Calabuig, opposition party spokesman for development Gonzalo Robles and a number of advisors were present. The session covered voice and governance reforms, donor coordination and the Millennium Development Goals. Spanish MPs expressed their full support to increasing capital in the different Multilateral Development Banks.

For more information please contact jbarrera@worldbank.org

Luanda, Angola - From 30 November to 3 December, the Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA) plenary session brought together 78 members of the European Parliament and



78 parliamentarians from the ACP states. Saroj Jha, WB program manager for the Global Facility for Disas-

ter Risk Reduction (GFDRR) gave a presentation on the GFDRR. Managed by the World Bank on behalf of the participating donor partners and other partnering stakeholders, the GFDRR provides technical and financial assistance to high risk low- and middle-income countries to mainstream disaster reduction in national development strategies and plans to achieve the MDGs.

For more information please contact glaryea@worldbank.org

Bangladesh - Members from the European Parliament met with the World Bank Office in Bangladesh and with other donors last month. The



MEPs, who were on a fact finding mission ahead of the UN COP15 Conference on Copenhagen, discussed, amongst others, donors programs on mitigation and adaptation; water, the environment, agriculture, livelihoods, and vulnerable populations. The MEPs wondered whether the World Bank managed Climate Change Multi Donor Trust Fund would succeed in the light of other less than successful Trust Funds.

For more information please contact glaryea@worldbank.org



SELECTION OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS

For more information on these activities, please contact evandamme@worldbank.org. E-courses can be found on 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). The Board will review such CAS from Belarus*, Tunisia, Tanzania, Vietnam* in December, and from Kosovo**, Morocco, Sierra Leone in January. In all these countries, CAS consultations with national parliaments were held.

*CASPR- Progress Report, ** ISN-Interim Strategy Note

January 7-9 Southern Political Science Association - PAC Workshop, Atlanta, GA

WBI is organizing a panel at the Southern Political Science As-

sociation Annual Conference which will review Public Accounts Committee (PAC) benchmarking analysis for the Pacific, South Asia, British Isles, Canada and Nigerian States.

January SAR Benchmarks Workshop, Dhaka, Bangladesh

As part of the international process aimed at developing a greater consensus around parliamentary benchmarks and standards, WBI, in partnership with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, UNDP and the Parliament of Bangladesh, will bring together the Speakers, Clerks and/ or parliamentary representatives from parliaments in the South Asia, Malaysia and Singapore to critically examine the Global Benchmarks for Democratic Governance.

January 25 Nordic-Baltic parliamentary meeting

On January 25, the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Danish Parliament is hosting a Nordic-Baltic parliamentary meeting to discuss World Bank issues. The meeting will establish a regional chapter of the Parliamentarian Network on the World Bank (PNoWB), to reflect the Nordic-Baltic chair on the Board of the World Bank. Ms. Anna Brandt, the Executive Director for the Nordic and Baltic countries on the Board of the World Bank has accepted to participate in the meeting.

February Residential Summer School for PACs, Beechworth, Australia

During a four-day retreat style course at La Trobe University's Beechworth Campus, this annual program focuses on building effective Public Accounts Committees (PACs) as the Parliament's primary means of financial scrutiny of the Executive. The course is conducted in partnership with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the Centre for Democratic Institutions, and La Trobe University.

February Annual West Africa Workshop for PACs, Accra, Ghana

As part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen parliamentary oversight of the budget in West Africa, WBI, in partnership with the Parliamentary Centre in Africa, and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, will hold this annual workshop aimed at highlighting international good practice in the area of financial oversight and providing a platform for south-south learning as participating Public Accounts Committees share their experiences in implementing their Action Plans for Reform.

February Effective Parliamentary Committees Course, Sydney, Australia

The course follows the process of conducting a committee inquiry



World Bank Update

from the beginning with the issuing of terms of reference for an inquiry through to the drafting of the final report and its tabling in Parliament. The course is conducted in partnership with the Center for Democratic Institutions, the Parliament of New South Wales, and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

February Indonesian Public Accounts Committee Course

As part of its ongoing efforts to provide support to Budget Oversight Committees, this workshop aims to build upon Indonesian participation in the “5th Residential Summer School for Parliamentary Public Accounts Committees” by broadening and deepening participants’ knowledge concerning the budget process and applying it specifically to the Indonesia context. Delivered in partnership with the Centre for Democratic Institutions, this activity will target both Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff.

February E-Learning: Parliament and Budget Oversight (in French)

This course, equivalent to 5 days (40 hours) of class room training starting in February 2010 will last for approximately six weeks. The aim of this e-learning course is to strengthen participants’ understanding as to the role of parliament in the budget process, particularly in Francophone countries.

March E-Learning: Parliament and Governance of Extractive Industry

This 6 week course will explain what the ‘resource curse’ means, which measures can be taken to combat the curse, and how parliamentarians can play an important role in doing so.

PUBLICATIONS

Research at the World Bank: abstracts of current studies

An abstract of current studies is published each year, describing the questions, analytical methods, findings and policy implications, and giving names of the research team, reports produced, and the project supervisor’s email address. Each compendium has an appendix that lists all Bank research reports and publications produced that year. Abstracts have been posted online since 2000.

More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/YNAEJ57A60>

NEWS

WB Board Approved Landmark Information Disclosure Policy

The World Bank’s Board of Executive Directors approved on 17 November the Bank’s new policy on access to information which positions the Bank as a transparency leader among inter-

national institutions. The policy was informed by extensive external and internal consultations held in 33 countries and through the Bank’s website. The new policy took into consideration the views of member countries, civil society organizations, academia, parliamentarians, media, the private sector, international organizations, donor agencies, and Bank staff. The new policy, which will become effective on July 1, 2010, represents a fundamental shift in the Bank’s approach to a ‘presumption of disclosure’ in which the Bank will disclose any information in its possession that is not on a list of exceptions.

More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/TRCDVYJ440>

WB Awards \$4.8 Million to 26 Innovative Ideas to Save the Planet



Close to \$5 million in grant money has been awarded to 26 innovative climate adaptation projects through the 2009 Global Development Marketplace, a global competitive grant program geared to funding innovation in development.

More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/SM8VXU2IA0>