



World Bank Update

PARLIAMENTARY NEWSLETTER

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*World Bank Managing Director
Sri Mulyani Indrawati -
PNoWB Annual Conference 2010
(Courtesy of PNoWB)*

PNOWB 2010 ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS

World Bank Managing Director Sri Mulyani Indrawati, and World Bank Vice Presidents Caroline Anstey (External Affairs) and Axel van Trotsenburg (Concessional Finance and Global Partnerships) were among the World Bank speakers at the 10th Anniversary Conference of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank, taking place in Brussels on December 2 to 4 at the Belgian Federal Parliament. Managing Director Indrawati underscored the efforts undertaken by the World Bank to democratize development, and how the World Bank can be an important knowledge broker, sharing information on well-working and practical development efforts, with amongst others parliamentarians, who are powerful advocates for development. Before answering questions from the attending parliamentarians, Ms. Indrawati also accounted for the World Bank's priorities following the global financial crisis: 1) Targeting the poor and vulnerable; 2) Creating opportunities for growth; 3) Promoting global collective action; 4) Strengthening governance, and; 5) Managing risk and preparing for crisis. Vice President Anstey spoke of the World Bank's 'Open Data, Open Knowledge and Open Solutions' initiative, making more than 4000 indicators from over 200 countries accessible online, for free at <http://data.worldbank.org>. Vice President van Trotsenburg spoke about the importance of IDA, the World Bank's Fund for the Poorest.

As one of the world's largest external funders of health, education, infrastructure and disaster reconstruction and recovery, IDA is critical to the achievement of the 2015 Millennium Development Goals. For more information, see www.worldbank.org/ida. IMF Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn also addressed the conference, attended by over 130 Parliamentarians from more than 50 countries, in addition to civil society representatives and partner organizations.

For the full program, see www.pnowb.org

FROM THE REGIONS

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

Brussels - On the sidelines of the second annual World Forum for Ethics in Business, held at the European Parliament (EP) on November 18-19 and attended by over 300 leaders and representatives from businesses, the public sector and civil society, World Bank Managing Director Mahmoud Mohieldin met MEP Eva Joly, Chair of the EP Development Committee. Their dialogue focused on: (i) how to meet Africa's energy demands with minimal reliance on fossil fuels; (ii) the need for global standards to address offshore tax havens and tax evasion; and (iii) the possible benefits of creating an international framework to prevent unsustainable use of leased land. Mr.



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Mohieldin agreed to share with Ms Joly the Bank's ideas about priority areas for developing countries' energy policies and requested more details on her office's initiatives and proposals on taxation and development. For more information please contact glaryea@worldbank.org

Turkey - On October 21-23, more than 300 government officials, parliamentarians, and academics gathered in Sivas, Turkey, at the international symposium "The Role of the Parliaments in Fiscal Policy." The event was jointly organized by Turkey's Ministry of Finance, the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, Cumhuriyet University, and the Ankara office of the World Bank. International experience was reflected with the participation of speakers from the World Bank, the OECD, and academics in different sessions. The symposium also shed light on new approaches to fiscal policy around the globe. Speaking on the economic and social impacts of fiscal policies, attention was drawn to the importance of having independent and objective budget units within Parliaments. The Report of the Civil Society Platform on Public Expenditure Monitoring, prepared by 45 Turkish NGOs, was presented by Bilgi University. The report, which has been sent to parliamentarians in the form of a letter, evaluates Turkey's public expenditures on social protection, youth, and children, the disabled, and defense. The recommendations gave a different perspective on this technical subject.

For more information please contact tcelasin@worldbank.org



Mexico - The GLOBE International Mexico Legislators Forum, co-sponsored by COMplus (of which the World Bank is a founding partner), took place at the Mexican Senate in Mexico City December 4-5 and provided a political platform on the recognition of national legislation within a future climate agreement at the midway point of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) sixteenth Conference of the Parties (COP16), taking place at the Mexican beach resort of Cancun. Eighty legislators from 16 major economies, which together account for about three quarters of global greenhouse gas emis-

sions, said in their final resolution that the key factors to tackle climate change include keeping alive the Kyoto Protocol beyond 2012, placing 'comparable commitments' on the United States, and formalizing actions of the major developing countries. The GLOBE resolution was later presented to Mexican President Felipe Calderon and UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres in Cancun. For more information on the Forum please contact pdacamara@worldbank.org. To learn more on the World Bank Group's efforts to help developing countries respond to the challenges of climate change, see www.worldbank.org/climatechange

Tunisia - The presentation of the finalized Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) to the Tunisian Parliament Scientific Committee on September 21st, represented a first of its kind for the Bank in Tunisia. The member deputies of the committee expressed strong interest in having more regular contact with the World Bank; their interest was triggered by the presentations made by Eavan O'Halloran, Senior Country Officer, main author

of the CPS and Ndiame Diop, Senior Country Economist, and author of the Development Policy Review (DPR), the most recent economic report on Tunisia. As the topics covered by the CPS and DPR are fully in line with the Tunisian XIth National Development Plan, the deputies stated that these were certainly national priorities they were currently discussing in Parliament. They welcomed all knowledge and materials we could provide



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to further support their decision taking and debates within the Parliament. The country team also informed deputies of the recent changes in the World Bank's Access to Information policy.

For more information, please contact djemail@worldbank.org

SELECTION OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

For more information on these activities, please contact mtixeront@worldbank.org
E-courses can be found on www.parliamentarystrengthening.org

December 6-8, 2010-International Corruption Hunters Alliance Meeting at World Bank

Over 200 anti-corruption officials from more than 40 countries met at the World Bank's headquarters in Washington to help facilitate the investigation and prosecution of corrupt actors, including those who defraud World Bank projects.

December 13-14, 2010-Parliament and Social Accountability Workshop, Dhaka, Bangladesh

The World Bank Institute (WBI) in collaboration with the Affiliated

Network on Social Accountability and Governance in South Asia, will deliver this pilot workshop with the aim to link MPs from relevant committees with civil society actors to explore social accountability issues and to develop a handbook on social accountability for MPs.

December 17-20, 2010-Asia Regional PAC meeting, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Following on from the South Asia meeting in November 2009 and the Asia regional working group in May 2010, this will be the inaugural meeting of the pan-Asia association of Public Account Committees (PACs) and PAC style committees from both Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries.

PUBLICATIONS

Entrepreneurs Get Helping Hand



In the past year, 117 economies carried out reforms to make it easier to start and run a business, according to *Doing Business 2011: Making a Difference for Entrepreneurs*, released on November 4. This IFC-World Bank report ranks Singapore first among

183 economies in the ease of doing business. Kazakhstan topped the list of "most improved" economies.

More information at <http://www.doingbusiness.org/>

China's Growth Prospects Remain Sound

China's growth has moderated somewhat to a still healthy pace, according to the Bank's latest China Quarterly Update released on November 3. The update finds that growth declined from 10.6% in the first half to 9.6% in the third quarter, leading the Bank to adjust China's growth projection for 2010 downwards to 10%.

More information at <http://www.worldbank.org/chinaquarterly>

Remittances Robust in Recent Crisis

Remittances to developing countries were a resilient source of external financing during the recent global financial crisis, with recorded flows expected to reach \$325 billion by the end of this year according to the Bank's latest *Migration and Remittances Factbook 2011*. Total remittance flows are expected to reach \$440 billion by the end of this year.

More information at <http://www.worldbank.org/migration>

Bank's openness agenda: WDR gets further boost

With the newly launched Complete *World Development Report Online*, all World Bank Reports



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published since 1978 are now available in one convenient cross-searchable website. You can access any report anytime, anywhere and analyze how important International Development topics have changed over the years.

More information at <http://wdronline.worldbank.org>

Governance News & Notes: Middle East and North Africa

This monthly e-mail publication of the World Bank's Middle East and North Africa Vice Presidency is intended to keep practitioners, legislators, academics, NGOs, members of the donor community and other interested parties informed about important developments in the field of governance and public management throughout the MENA region. The November Issue is available on the MENA Governance website.

More information at <http://www.worldbank.org/mena/governance>

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\$10M Grant to Help Contain Cholera in Haiti

As of November 24th, 2010, a new \$10 million grant will help address the cholera outbreak in Haiti by boosting the country's medical response, and expanding capacity to monitor and prevent future outbreaks. The funds—part of the Bank's \$479 million package for reconstruction support—will support several non-profit efforts providing ur-

gent health services and preventive care.

More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/3GPFL550G0>

World Bank's MIGA Significantly Expands Pool of Eligible Investments

The World Bank's political risk insurance arm, the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), announced on November 15th that the agency's Council of Governors approved substantial changes to its convention, the first changes since the agency was established in 1988. As a result, MIGA can insure more investments and increase its development impact.

More information at http://www.miga.org/news/index_sv.cfm?aid=2823

World Bank Projects Biodiversity

Ecosystems and biodiversity are important to overcoming poverty. Over the last 20 years, the bank has supported biodiversity conservation in more than 120 countries, with more than \$6 billion. The Bank will increase its financing of ecosystem and biodiversity services in a wide range of sectors including infrastructure, agriculture, and climate change.

More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/VB3RECHBS0>

Join the World Bank Consultation on the Africa Strategy



The World Bank regularly holds public consultations for all stakeholders concerned with its strategies. Parliamentarians can participate either by filling out the online questionnaires or by attending consultation meetings in their country/region. Bank has released its draft strategy for

Africa (aimed at steering policies and operations in sub-Saharan Africa for the next 5 years).

You can provide feedback at www.worldbank.org/africaconsultations (Deadline: December 17).