



World Bank Update

PARLIAMENTARY NEWSLETTER

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REACHING OUT TO COUNTRY STAKEHOLDERS

Broadening and strengthening the Bank communication with a number of key stakeholders at the country level – including parliamentarians, civil society, and the business community – can visibly improve the development impact of the Bank’s interventions. Parliamentarians are increasingly important allies in promoting the development agenda, both in donor countries and in client countries. Following up on the 10th Anniversary conference of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank, World Bank Senior Management in a note to Country Directors encouraged our 130+ Country Offices to continue to strengthen the dialogue with our parliamentary counterparts. Country Offices are currently sharing their experiences on parliamentary engagement, as part of an effort to identify best practices. In Mongolia, the local World Bank office is for instance running a distance-learning series on the role of Parliament in budget oversight in cooperation with the World Bank Institute (WBI), which is also targeted at several other countries in the region.

(IFC Chief Investment Officer) and Patrick Klein (European Commission Policy Officer) were the featured speakers. The roundtable highlighted the complementarity between the IFC and EC. Among other initiatives, IFC has been entrusted by the G20 to manage the SME Finance Innovation Fund that will implement best models for public-private partnerships to catalyze financing for SMEs. The EC is facilitating access to finance to EU SMEs through the Competitiveness and Innovation Program and through its Regional Structural funds.

For more information please contact lnelliferoci@ifc.org



PNoWB Annual Conference 2010

Courtesy of PNoWB

On December 18 and 19, the World Bank Institute (WBI) Vice President Sanjay Pradhan co-chaired the 7th World Forum for Ethics in Business (WFEB) at the European Parliament. This International Symposium featured a keynote address by World Bank Managing Director Mahmoud Mohieldin and brought together over 300 leaders and representatives from businesses, the public sector, academia and civil society, including almost 150 participants from Africa. The Symposium explored innovative ways for managers and leaders to deal with the dynamic and complex economic, social and political challenges ahead. It also provided an exceptional opportunity for 25 young professionals from various countries to participate and articulate their vision for a sustainable future.

More information at http://www.wfeb.org/symposium_2010.html.

BRUSSELS HIGHLIGHTS

On December 8, Alf Svensson, Member of the European Parliament, hosted a roundtable focusing on access to finance for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). André Laude

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In Mid-January, World Bank Vice President for Europe and Central Asia (ECA), Philippe Le Houerou met with French MEP Pervenche Beres, Chair of the EP’s Committee on Employment and Social Affairs. Discussions focused on the role the World Bank could play to overcome the challenges caused by the crisis in Europe; and in particular how it can support new EU member states with their capacity building and institutional development efforts. In a separate meeting with UK MEP Sharon Bowles, EP Chair of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee, Le Houerou spoke of the World Bank’s new strategy for Europe and Central Asia and discussed ways of intensifying the Bank’s partnership with the EU in this region.

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FROM THE REGIONS

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

Dominican Republic (DR) - The World Bank Office in the DR recognizes the importance of developing a strong working relationship with Congress to build alliances and coalitions for the country to meet its development goals. The commitment to this policy is reflected in the fourth strategic objective of the Country Partnership Strategy (FY10-FY13), *Build Capacity and Constituency for Reform*, which seeks to deepen the Bank’s engagement with non-tradi-

tional actors to generate greater accountability and promote the demand for “good” governance. To date, the Bank is engaged in the strengthening of the planning and budget analysis capacity of Congress through an Institutional Development Fund; has met on several occasions with Members of Congress -including the President of the Lower Chamber- to discuss the development issues of the country.

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London - As part of his visit to London in early February, World Bank President Robert Zoellick met with the International Development Committee (IDC) and later with the All Party Parliamentary Group on Overseas Development (APGOOD) in the British House of Commons. The IDC members were especially interested in the outcome of IDA 16 negotiations, the Bank’s role in responding to recent economic and environmental shocks, especially food prices; the Bank’s administrative costs; how to ensure proper Value for Money in development; and the IFC’s role in poverty reduction. The IDC have just launched a new inquiry titled Infrastructure and Development to which the Bank will contribute to informally. Infrastructure -particularly ‘economic infrastructure’ supporting power, transport, water and communications- boosts economic growth, supports sustainable development and is central to efforts towards poverty reduction.

For more information, please contact afelton@worldbank.org

Senegal - On January 18, Mademba Sba Ndiaye, Senior Communication Officer, Senegal, represented the World Bank at the Annual General Meeting of the African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption (APNAC) held in Dakar with the overarching theme: “Politicians and Corruption - The role of Parliamentarians”. The conference was well attended by parliamentarians from all regions of the continent. APNAC is Africa’s leading network of parliamentarians working to strengthen parliamentary capacity to fight corruption and promote good governance. Participating parliamentarians praised the Bank’s role and leadership as an international organization in the fight against corruption but also requested more parliamentary involvement and engagement at an early stage in the Bank country programs and consultation processes.

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Zambia - Twenty two MPs from both rural and urban constituencies attended a meeting with World Bank President Robert Zoellick in Zambia on December 17. Issues discussed included the role of Parliament in supporting good governance





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and accountability, mobilization and effective use of domestic resources, and monitoring of results. The mining sector and in particular the controversial mining taxation dominated the discussion. On agriculture the MPs pointed out the constraints that prevent the agriculture sector from growing (the annual growth rate during the past decade was about 1%; the sector has performed below its potential): low investments in agriculture, low crops productivity, low diversification. Members of Parliament informed President Zoellick that they are in the process of establishing the Zambian Chapter of the PNoWB. He said he was happy with the plan and encouraged the members join the network as it provided a platform for MPs in different countries to compare notes on development.

For more information, please contact ngoma@worldbank.org

SELECTION OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Mid-January to Mid-April, Social Protection & Labor Strategy consultation



Social Protection systems are central to prevention against drops in well-being, protection from destitution, and the promotion of improved

opportunities and livelihoods. The World Bank Group will begin consultations in January on a renewed social protection and labor strategy that will guide its work for the next decade. You can review and send comments on the concept note until May 2011 at www.worldbank.org/spstrategy

February 6 -12, Summer Residency Program for PACs, Beechworth, Australia

This Annual program is designed specifically for Parliamentary Public Accounts Committees (PAC), and is aimed at building stronger understanding of the role and function of PACs, as well as developing action plans for improvement.

February 15, Workshop: Asset Declaration Best International Practices

The World Bank Office in the Dominican Republic, in coordination with the Lower Chamber, is preparing a workshop for Congress Representatives to understand best practices in terms of Asset Declaration to inform the congressional debate.

February 21, NATO Parliamentary Assembly Meeting in Brussels

World Bank Special Representative and Director to Europe Carlos Braga will address the joint meetings of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly's Defence and Security, Political, and Economics and Security Committees in Brussels, bringing together about 50 national parliamentar-

ians from all NATO member nations.

February 19-23, WAAPAC Accountability Conference Meeting, Lome, Togo

The objective is to strengthen the capacity of parliaments to engage in the budget process. The goal is to foster/strengthen the WAAPAC (West Africa Association of Public Accounts Committee), enhance the capacity of Members and staff through south-south exchange, and provide a forum in order to draw linkages between PAC networks, SAIs and multi-stakeholder coalitions overseeing procurement processes in West Africa.

February to March-ICT Strategy consultation

The World Bank Group has been launching a global consultation to gather inputs from a wide range of stakeholders for a new strategy that will guide how it helps developing countries mobilize information and communication technologies (ICT) for poverty reduction and growth. You can provide feedback on the strategy until March 31 at <http://go.worldbank.org/GJEZA3JDC0>

March 1 (6 weeks appx.), E-Learning Course on Parliaments and Budget

Designed especially for parliamentary staff, it is open to all participants and will be of particular interest to journalists, civil society groups and officials working in ministries of finance. Topics cov-



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ered include introducing the budget; the budget process; parliamentary approval of the budget; the audit of public accounts.

More information at www.parliamentarystrengthening.org

March 2, Videoconference on West Bank and Gaza

The World Bank's Country Director to the West Bank and Gaza will brief a group of MENA and Members of the European Parliament on the World Bank's work in the West Bank and Gaza, in a Video Conference jointly organized by the World Bank and the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB).

PUBLICATIONS

Asset Recovery Handbook

Developing countries lose between \$20 billion and \$40 billion each year to bribery, embezzlement, and other corrupt practices. Over the past 15 years only \$5 billion has been recovered and returned. A new handbook seeks to help close this gap. The Asset Recovery Handbook, released on December 16 by the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative of the World Bank Group and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, provides practitioners with a how-to guide for recovering stolen assets.

More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/5C19W3FGL0>

Global Development Finance 2011

Net global capital flows to developing countries fell 20 percent in 2009 to \$598 billion (3.7 percent of gross national income [GNI]), from \$744 billion in 2008 (4.5 percent of GNI) and were a little over half the 2007 peak of \$1.11 trillion. This according to a new comprehensive dataset launched by the World Bank on December 16, 2010 on international capital flows titled "Global Development Finance 2011: External Debt of Developing Countries" which reveals the impact of the financial crisis on 128 developing countries. More information at <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/global-development-finance>

Global Economic Prospects 2011



The world economy is moving from a post-crisis phase of recovery to slower but still solid growth this year and next, with developing countries contributing almost half of global growth. Global GDP, which expanded by 3.9% in 2010, is expected to slow to 3.3% in 2011, according to the World Bank's Global Economic Prospects (GEP) 2011 released on January 12. More information at www.worldbank.org/globaloutlook

WORLD BANK NEWS, PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES

Fund for Poorest Receives Record Replenishment

On December 15, a final agreement was reached on a \$49.3 billion funding package for the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank's fund for the poorest countries and a key actor in progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Funding for the sixteenth IDA replenishment (IDA16) is up 18 percent on the previous round three years ago and follows pledges not only from traditional donors but also funding from within the World Bank Group and from current and former IDA borrowers.

More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/F5A0QOJ8K0>

New Fund for Carbon Trading Initiatives

Developing countries wanting to use market instruments to scale up their mitigation efforts will soon have access to financial and technical support arising from a new global partnership. Launched in December, the initiative aims for a total capitalization of \$100 million, and is expected to become operational in early 2011.

More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/Q534M6CBI0>