



World Bank Update

PARLIAMENTARY NEWSLETTER

July - August 2009



*World Bank Group President,
Mr. Robert B. Zoellick*



World Bank Head Quarters

PRESIDENT ZOELICK MEETS CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS

During his first official visit to Canada on June 8-9, World Bank President Zoellick was a guest at an informal meeting of the parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development. Chaired by Mr. Kevin Sorenson, the meeting was very well attended and included representatives from all political parties.

Mr. Zoellick thanked the Canadian government and people for their long-time support for development and the World Bank Group, and their recent contribution to the Global Trade Liquidity Program. He sought thoughts of committee members on the ongoing modernization of multilateral institutions, and asked for continued assistance in ensuring that development aid is well spent. A lively discussion followed about the Bank's work in Africa, results and accountability in health programming, plans for future microfinance work, climate change, the financial crisis and governance and accountability.

Parliamentarians asked among other things for the Bank's assistance in increasing awareness of development issues in Canada and abroad.

WORKSHOP ON ENGAGING WITH LEGISLATURES

On June 11th, the World Bank (Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Network, World Bank Institute) organized a workshop where practitioners of the World Bank, academics and colleagues from other development agencies explored the nature of current Bank and broader development practice vis-à-vis legislatures and provided input towards future engagements.

Indeed, there are several ways in which the Bank engages with parliaments: at the policy level, around projects and in programs aimed at capacity building.

The workshop offered an opportunity to network, to share lessons learned and to get the latest information on research related to parliamentarians.

The information gathered during the workshop will be used as input for a PREM note on World Bank engagement with legislatures. This note will be posted on the World Bank website.

For more information on the Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Network see www.worldbank.org/prem. For more information on the World Bank Institute see www.worldbank.org/wbi

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SELECTION OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS

Consultations on Country Assistance Strategies (CAS)



World Bank country offices regularly engage with parliamentarians and other constituencies during consultations on the Country Assistance Strategy. In July/August, Country Assistance Strategies for which consultations with parliamentarians were held will be sent to the Board for the following countries: Poland (Country Assistance Strategies), Central African Republic (Joint AfDB/World Bank Country Partnership Strategy), Timor-Leste (Interim Strategy Notes). In Jamaica, Parliament and Senate scheduled a joint session preceding the consultation of Parliament on the Partnership Strategy on July 7.

July 14, Carbon Finance Online Chat

The World Bank's State and Trends of the Carbon Market Report 2009 reveals the market doubled to \$126 billion. Not as welcome is the news

that the value of transactions financing actual project-based emission reductions fell 12 percent to an estimated \$6.5 billion in 2008. Joëlle Chassard, manager of the World Bank's Carbon Finance Unit will be online at <http://discuss.worldbank.org/> on July 14 at 10 a.m. EDT to answer questions on carbon finance

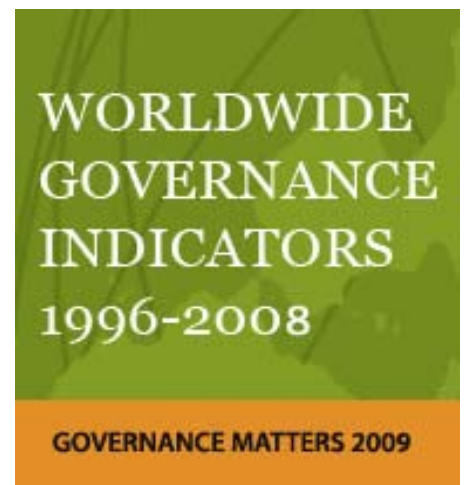
Until July 31 Climate Change Comments



During the global consultations in 2008 on its Strategic Framework on Development and Climate Change, the World Bank Group promised stakeholders that it would keep listening as the Framework is implemented. You can let know what you think about the way the World Bank is handling climate change, by submitting your comments before July 31 through the website <http://go.worldbank.org/PGEFG0GKW0>

PUBLICATIONS

Governance indicators



While this year's update of the Worldwide Governance Indicators 1996-2008 shows that many countries have made progress in governance and anti-corruption over the past decade, it also reveals that other countries failed to make such improvements. The Worldwide Governance indicators are one of the most comprehensive cross-country sets of governance indicators currently available. Measuring governance is important, as there is a well-established link between better governance and improved development results.

More information at <http://www.gov-indicators.org>

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Global Development Finance 2009: Charting a Global Recovery



The global economic turmoil has dramatic effects on capital flows to developing countries, according to *Global Development Finance 2009*. The report, released on June 22, shows that net private capital inflows to developing countries fell to \$707 billion in 2008, a sharp drop from a peak of \$1.2 trillion in 2007, and they are projected to fall further to \$363 billion in 2009. Developing countries are expected to grow by only 1.2% this year (-1.6% excluding China and India) after 8.1% growth in 2007 and 5.9% growth in 2008.

More information at <http://www.worldbank.org/gdf2009>

China Quarterly Update

While China's economy has continued to feel the brunt of the global crisis, very expansionary fiscal and monetary policies have kept the economy growing respectably, according to the World Bank's latest *China Quarterly Update*. The update says that with growth remaining respectable, China can have the confidence to emphasize forward looking policies and structural reforms.

More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/QR685IVMP0>

African Competitiveness Report

African businesses can become far more competitive, but African governments and their international partners will need to improve access to finance, resist pressure to erect trade barriers, upgrade infrastructure, improve healthcare and educational systems and strengthen institutions. The *Africa Competitiveness Report 2009*, released on June 10th, also points to a number of success stories in the region that highlight steps countries can take to improve the business environment.

More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/37ODDU30H0>

New Report Demonstrates World Bank's Impact on Corruption

The World Bank Group's Integrity Vice Presidency (INT) made significant headway in the fight against corruption during fiscal year 2008, a new report released on June 9th by the Bank says. INT closed 243 investigations and completed a large-scale review of projects in India's health sector while simultaneously implementing the 18 recommendations of the Independent Review Panel (Volcker Panel).

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

Accountability in Public Expenditures in Latin America and the Caribbean

Based on more than a decade of World Bank diagnostics, this book sets out key areas that remain to be addressed by governments in Latin America and the Caribbean to increase accountability in public financial management and procurement.

More information at http://publications.worldbank.org/e-commerce/catalog/product?item_id=9131204.



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Access to information working papers

The Media, Information and Governance Program at the World Bank Institute (WBI) and the Communication for Governance & Accountability Program (CommGAP) regularly publish working papers on access to information. Recent titles include Budgeting Implications for Access To Information Legislation: The Mexican Case (2009), Enforcement Models. Content and Context (2009), Exploring the Role of Civil Society in the Formulation and Adoption of Access to Information Laws (2009).

More information and other research at www.worldbank.org/commgap.

WORLD BANK NEWS, PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES

Action Against World's Greatest Vaccine-Preventable Killer of Children.

On June 12, Ministers of Finance and global health leaders activated the implementation phase of the Advance Market Commitment (AMC) pilot project to accelerate the introduction of vaccines against pneumococcal diseases in developing countries. In doing so, donors delivered on their \$1.5-billion commitment. It is estimated that the AMC pneumococcal pilot could prevent more than seven million childhood deaths by 2030.

More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/DCUSYXGLB0>

World Bank Group Establishes Agriculture Finance Support Facility

The World Bank Group announced on June 8 a new venture to support the expansion of rural finance in the developing world. Through a \$20 million Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation contribution, the World Bank will establish the Agriculture Finance Support Facility that will support grants to bank and non-bank institutions for activities to increase access to financial services. The World Bank regularly makes investments in rural finance and committed \$613 million in fiscal year 2008. www.worldbank.org/ard.

World Bank to 'Fast-Track' USD 500 Million to Help Prepare for Pandemic Flu

The World Bank approved on June 2nd a 'fast-track' status for US \$500 million dollars to help countries prepare for Influenza A(H1N1). This will enable low and middle-income countries to buy drugs, medical equipment and supplies, to pay for hospital care and public information campaigns, to strengthen human and livestock health surveillance, and help to blunt the economic and social costs associated with pandemic flu.

More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/ILM4BEB700>

As Global Slump is Set to Continue, Poor Countries Need More Help

"The world economy is set to contract this year by more than previously estimated, and poor countries will continue to be hit hard. Waves of economic pain continue to hurt the developing world's poor, who have less cushion to protect themselves. There is much more we need to do in the coming months to mobilize resources to ensure that the poor do not pay for a crisis that is not of their making."

World Bank President Robert B. Zoellick, June 2009



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