



World Bank Update

PARLIAMENTARY NEWSLETTER

June 2009



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PARLIAMENTARIANS AT THE WORLD BANK

On May 4, just after the Spring Meetings of the World Bank and the IMF, about twenty-five parliamentarians from the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA) and the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB) visited the World Bank in Washington. They were welcomed by Senior Vice President External Affairs Marwan Muasher and met various senior World Bank staff during a day that they described as ‘most interesting’ and ‘inspiring’. The financial crisis was one of the main themes of the visit. Jeffrey Lewis, James Park and Kenroy A Dowers analyzed its impact and described the response of the World Bank Group. Senior Manager Michele de Nevers presented the World Bank’s climate change agenda. Director Alastair McKechnie gave an interesting presentation on World Bank policies and programs in fragile and conflict affected countries with plenty of examples from Afghanistan, where he was a country director for many years. Director Juergen Voegelé had the unrewarding task to be the last speaker of the day, but managed to provoke a lively discussion on the food crisis, agriculture and the H1N1 virus. During the wrap-up, director International Affairs Edith Grace Ssempala concluded that receiving parliamentary delegations around the Annual and Spring Meetings is a good habit that the World Bank should keep.

WORLD BANK ADDRESS ANNUAL MEETING OF AWEPA COUNCIL

On May 9, World Bank International Affairs Director Edith Grace Ssempala addressed the annual meeting of the AWEPA Council, the General Assembly of the Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa. Ms Ssempala presented the World Bank’s analysis of how the financial and economic crises impacts Africa. First, African countries are being hurt by the decline in private capital flows, which in 2007 exceeded foreign aid to the continent. Second, many African countries are facing a drastic slowdown in remittances. Third, foreign aid is at risk. While most donors have pledged to maintain their level of aid, they are already \$20 billion short of the commitments made in Gleneagles in 2005. And fourth, the global crisis has brought about a rapid decline in commodity prices, which while beneficial for some commodity net importers, have adverse effects on the commodity exporters. The World Bank’s response is geared to minimize the growth shortfall in Africa, through providing (i) timely financial assistance for growth-preserving and poverty-reducing activities; (ii) knowledge assistance to help governments navigate this unprecedented situation; and (iii) convening assistance that offers a framework for other development partners to pool their assistance to Africa.



Nato PA and PNOWB visit

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See also <http://african.worldbank.org>



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PARLIAMENTARY STRENGTHENING IN TURKEY

An International Symposium on 'Parliamentary Oversight and External Audit' in Ankara, organized by the World Bank and the Turkish Parliament marked the beginning of a range of activities that the World Bank Country Office will organize in cooperation with the Plan and Budget Committee of the Turkish parliament. These activities will focus on accountability, transparency and governance.

The International Symposium on April 15-16 attracted around 350 parliamentarians, academics, government officials, representatives of international organizations, journalists and diplomats. It covered issues like the new public oversight concept and the changing role of external audits in public oversight.

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 June Coun-

try Assistance Strategies for which consultations with parliamentarians were held will be sent to the Board for the following countries: Repub-



lic of Congo, Nepal (Interim Strategy Note). In June and July, consultations with among others parliamentarians are planned in the following countries: Tunisia, Tajikistan and Jamaica. Uganda has ongoing consultations with parliamentarians and more formal consultations are expected in the coming months.

Review of Disclosure Policy

The World Bank is reviewing its disclosure policy and would like to shift its approach from a 'positive list' (spells out what information the Bank discloses) to a 'negative list' (the Bank discloses any information in its possession that is not on a list of exceptions). The World Bank has asked different constituencies for input. Several parliamentary organizations have been approached, but individual input from parliamentarians can also be sent to the disclosure team at Disclosure_Consultations@worldbank.org until June 5.

More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/FSBLXEWJ50>

June 3-4 Workshop on Strengthening Parliamentary Capacity Development

This workshop is a follow-up of the recent meeting of representatives from the Asean Parliamentary Forum, which called for regional training programs to be developed by two of WBI's partners – Thailand's King Prajadhipok Institute and Vietnam's Training Center for Elected Representatives. The aim is to forge a working relationship between these two institutions, and to produce a common set of training materials applicable across the sub-region.

More information at www.worldbank.org/wbi/governance/parliament/index.html

June 7-9 Workshop on the Role of Parliament and the Budget in Bangladesh

This course, part of WBI's ongoing collaborative program with CIDA in Bangladesh, provides technical training for newly elected Members of Parliament and their staff on the role of parliament in the budget process.

More information at www.worldbank.org/wbi/governance/parliament/index.html



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June 22-23 Seminar Development Oversight and Legislative Orientation



The Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB) and the donor community in Sierra Leone, including the World Bank, are planning a two-day development oversight and legislative orientation conference with parliamentarians on 22nd and 23rd of June 2009.

For more information please contact msherriff@worldbank.org

June 22-25 Training for Speakers of Parliament in Australia

This course is being developed by WBI's partner, the Center for Democratic Institutions, in response to demand for training for newly appointed Speakers, around the Commonwealth and elsewhere. If successful, WBI and the Parliamentary Center will adapt the course for delivery in Africa.

More information at www.worldbank.org/wbi/governance/parliament/index.html

June 26 Pacific Workshop on Parliamentary Benchmarks

This workshop in Australia, part of WBI's collaboration with the UNDP, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, and NDI to develop parliamentary indicators and benchmarks, will apply the benchmarks to selected Pacific countries.

More information at www.worldbank.org/wbi/governance/parliament/index.html

PUBLICATIONS

State and Trends of the Carbon Market 2009

Despite the turmoil in the financial world, 2008 saw a doubling of the global carbon market, to an estimated value of more than US\$ 126 billion, according to the latest 'State and Trends of the Carbon Market Report 2009', released on May 27 by the World Bank at the Carbon Expo in Barcelona. Moreover, the report indicates that the biggest opportunities are yet to be seized.

More information at www.carbonfinance.org

Annual Report on Carbon Finance Activities

The World Bank annual report on carbon finance activities released on May 15 shows that developing countries, particularly in Africa, are

increasingly benefitting from Bank-managed carbon funds and facilities. The Bank's carbon finance operations have expanded from a single fund a decade ago to 11 funds and facilities today. The Bank has more than 186 projects in its carbon finance portfolio. Out of these, 119 projects have signed emission reductions purchase agreements with a value of over \$1.8 billion, up from 89 projects (totaling over \$1.5 billion) in 2007. The East Asia and Pacific region—in particular China—with a total emission reduction value of over \$1.3 billion makes up the largest share of all active projects.

More information at www.carbonfinance.org

Little Green Data Book 2009



Cities and their residents are the main drivers of global warming, yet also offer the best means for slowing the rate and impact of climate change, according to the 2009 annual edition of the Little Green Data Book released on May 15. The book explains that cities derive 72% of their energy from fossil fuels, and as urbanization gathers pace around the world, greenhouse gas emissions from these fuels could rise significantly. Some 360 million urban residents living in coastal zones risk exposure to sea surges. However, successful reductions in per-capita CO2 emissions by countries



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such as Germany and Sweden provide models of hope for similar remediation by fast-developing countries.

More information at www.worldbank.org/environment/dataandstatistics

Promoting Enterprise-Led Innovation in China

Continuous government support for private sector growth is of strategic importance to China if it is to build up an enterprise-led technological innovation system, says the World Bank report 'Promoting Enterprise-Led Innovation in China'. The report is the result of a recent World Bank study designed to assist the Chinese government in implementing its strategy of enterprise-led innovation.

More information at go.worldbank.org/H801E94A80

Guide to recover Looted Funds

The World Bank and the United Nations Office against Drugs and Crime (UNODC) released on May 4th a new guide to help countries recover looted funds even when there has not been a conviction for the crime. The publication, *Stolen Asset Recovery: A Good Practices Guide for Non-Conviction Based Asset Forfeiture*, by Theodore S. Greenberg, Linda Samuel, Wingate Grant, and Larissa Gray, was produced under the auspices of the World Bank's and UNODC's Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative (StAR),

as part of its overall efforts to end impunity for corruption worldwide.

More information at www.worldbank.org/star

WORLD BANK NEWS, PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES

IDA Commits USD540 Million to Protect and Enhance Basic Service Delivery in Ethiopia

On May 14th, the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved 540 million USD in International Development Association (IDA) funding for the Protection of Basic Services (PBS) program in Ethiopia. Since 2006, PBS has complemented government resources to improve the decentralized delivery of basic services in five sectors—education, health, agriculture, water and sanitation, and rural roads.

More information at www.worldbank.org/ethiopia

'Education for All' Faces 1.2 Billion USD Financing Gap

A global push to enroll children in school faces an immediate financing gap of some \$1.2 billion—a situation that threatens the goal of universal education by 2015, say backers of the Education for All-Fast Track Initiative (EFA-FTI). Supporters from 34 countries endorsed a campaign on April 25 during the World



Bank-IMF Spring Meetings to mobilize resources for the program, an international partnership set up in 2002 to provide all boys and girls in developing countries a complete primary school education by 2015. African countries participating in the initiative enrolled 15 million more children in school between 2001 and 2006.

More information at www.education-fast-track.org

IFC Launches Subsidiary to Manage Third-Party Capital for Development

IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, has taken on May 7 a historic step to maximize its ability to mobilize capital to address the effects of the global financial crisis and serve longer-term development needs, setting up a subsidiary that for the first time will serve as a fund manager of third-party capital.

More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/9ITTS97B20>



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