



World Bank Update

PARLIAMENTARY NEWSLETTER

June 2010

LAYING FOUNDATIONS FOR INTERACTING WITH PARLIAMENT IN MALAWI

Malawi has a new Parliament, and the Bank's country office is strengthening relations with the National Assembly. For the first time in years, on April 30 the Bank held an orientation workshop for MPs to help them understand Bank operations in Malawi, how the Bank functions, and their role in Bank supported initiatives. "We found it important to start engaging the MPs right away in their first year in office as we will be dealing with them throughout the life of the new country assistance strategy that we are developing," said Chrissy Kamwendo, the Bank's Operations Officer in Malawi.

The current MPs were elected in May 2009 and their term of office expires in 2014, the same year the new Bank assistance strategy will expire. Parliament in Malawi authorizes Government to borrow funds from most in-



ternational institutions, including the World Bank. Since it started its operations in Malawi in 1966, the Bank has provided the country with about US\$2.5 billion in credits and grants. Through the orientation workshop, the Bank has laid the foundations for Parliament to interact with the Bank on two fronts: first in project implementation, and secondly as a first port of call for development knowledge. The MPs better appreciated how they are important development partners with an oversight role during implementation, ensuring resources they approve in parliament deliver results to the intended beneficiaries. After the project cycle presentation, they understood how their role extended beyond approving an Authorization Bill in Parliament, to participating throughout the life of a project working with all involved players. On the second aspect of development knowledge, the MPs were shown knowledge resources online and learned of the expertise available in the country team. Parliamentarians said that this would help them make informed decisions: "The Bank is an important source of information on poverty reduction. As

Parliamentarians, we are powerful advocates for development as we review development policies for our Government," said the First Deputy Speaker of Parliament Honourable Jones Chingola when he opened the orientation workshop.

The workshop drew participants from the following parliamentary committees: Agriculture and Natural Resources; Budget and Finance; Commerce, Industry and Tourism; Education; Health; HIV/AIDS; International Relations; Media and Communications; Public Accounts; and, Transport and Public Works. "This workshop is indeed the beginning of great and better interaction with the Bank. We look forward to contributing to the development of the Bank's country assistance strategy," said Honourable Ralph Jooma, Chairperson of the Budget and Finance Committee. At the end of the workshop, 18 MPs signed up for the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank, setting the stage for the establishment of a national chapter. For more information, please contact zbanda@worldbank.org

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Eight Pointers Guidebook

On May 20 the World Bank Parliamentary Relations Team presented to Country Office colleagues a guidebook for interaction with Parliaments and Parliamentarians. The '8 pointers' guidebook gathers best practices and experiences, and is meant to provide guidance on how - within the limitations set by the World Bank Group's Articles of Agreement - the Bank Group's Country Offices can commence or strengthen their engagement with Parliamentarians and Legislators. The '8 pointers' is part of a consistent and ongoing effort by the World Bank Group to move from ad-hoc relations to sustained and substantive dialogue with Parliaments and Parliamentarians.

FROM THE REGIONS

Uruguay - Pamela Cox, World Bank Vice President for Latin America and the Caribbean visited Uruguay last April and met for breakfast with legislators from all the political parties. Pamela Cox was invited to talk about innovation, discuss challenges the region is facing in this area



as well as good examples of innovative projects supported by the World Bank in Uruguay (Promoting Innovation for Increased Competiveness and Foot and Mouth Disease Eradication). Parliamentarians showed interest in knowing more about World Bank operations and studies. Also, Ms. Cox announced the approval of a \$ 385,000 grant to Promote Equitable

Access of Society to the Legal System and institutional strengthening of the Parliament. This project -that will start in July- seeks to (i) increase the knowledge of vulnerable groups of norms that entail social rights and allow these groups to provide feedback to legislators (ii) improve the capacity of Parliament to consider the social dimension of laws when drafting legislation; and (iii) improve the capacity of the Executive Branch of government to implement social norms and to ensure that vulnerable groups fully benefit from them. For more information please contact vbolla@worldbank.org

South Africa - As part of the World Bank's South-South cooperation initiative, a high-level parliamentary delegation from South Africa's Ministry of Rural Development and Land Reforms led by H.E. Minister Gugile Nkwinti visited China during April 17-24, 2010. The purpose was to witness first-hand China's remarkable progress in rural development and land reforms with a view to informing the design of South Africa's Comprehensive Rural Development Program.

The study tour blended a mix of high-level meetings with Chinese officials responsible for rural development programs, policy briefings, visits to rural areas and Chinese centers of excellence. A highlight of the study tour was a visit to Suzhou in Jiangsu Province, Yangtze River delta area. The South African visitors saw how



Picture Courtesy of Guo Li

China was implementing its integrated approach to rural-urban development, including bringing services to communities and offering the visitors a chance to see the vital role that small farmers play in contributing to China's food security and the power of agribusiness. Mr. Guo Li, Senior Agricultural Economist in the World Bank's Pretoria Office conceptualized the study tour. For more information please contact Gli1@worldbank.org

SELECTION OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS

For more information on these activities, please contact mtixeront@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). In June, the Board is scheduled to review the CASes for OECS (Organization of Eastern Caribbean States) Countries, Lesotho and Pakistan as well as the Interim Strategy Note (ISN) for the Chad and Comoros. In all these countries, members of parliament were involved in the CAS consultations

May 2010-January 2011-New Africa Strategy-Seeking your view

The Bank is renewing its strategy for Africa which is outlined in the Africa Action Plan (AAP). The strategy is being reviewed against a backdrop of changes in the global economy, in Africa and the World Bank. As part of this review, the World Bank will consult with a wide array of stakeholders to seek their views and input. The process is expected to be finalized in late 2010-early 2011. In addition to collecting comments online, the World Bank is holding a first phase of consultations from June 2010 to July 2010. You can share your views online at www.worldbank.org/africa/aapconsultations

May 31-June 2.- ABCDE Conference in Stockholm (Sweden)

The Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics (ABCDE) took place in Stockholm,

May 31—June 2. This year's theme was "Development Challenges in a Post-Crisis World". Nobel Laureates Elinor Ostrom, Joseph Stiglitz, Eric Maskin, James Mirrlees and Robert Solow was among the speakers, as was World Bank Chief Economist Justin Yifu Lin. Esther Duflo, recent winner of the John Bates Clark medal

issues, and financial services issues linked to the Crisis. The financial crisis committee was set-up in the aftermath of the crisis for one year and is expected to produce a report with analysis and recommendations for the EU on the crisis at the end of its mandate. For more information, please contact glaryea@worldbank.org

Other ongoing consultations and discussions

- Environment Strategy Consultations, October 2009-2010 www.worldbank.org/environmentconsultations
- Energy Strategy Consultations, January to June 2010 www.worldbank.org/energyconsultations
- Education Strategy Consultations, February-August 2010 www.worldbank.org/educationstrategy
- Trade Strategy Consultations, April-June 2010 www.worldbank.org/tradeconsultations

spoke on "Gender Equality in Development". Gunilla Carlsson, Sweden's minister for International Development Cooperation delivered remarks on the MDGs as well as 'IDA at 50', commemorating the Association's 50th anniversary. To download the agenda, see presentations, and read papers related to ABCDE 2010, visit: <http://econ.worldbank.org/abcde/sweden2010>

June 8-9-Delegation from EP Financial Crisis Committee to visit Washington

A delegation of MEPs from the temporary European Parliament (EP) Financial Crisis Committee has asked to meet with the World Bank while on its mission to Washington in June to discuss the Crisis, global

June 20-23- IDA Field Visit in Mali

The Parliamentary Relations Team (EXTEU) is working closely with the Mali Country Office and the Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF) on preparing a "Parliamentarians in the Field visit" to Mali, which is the venue also for the second replenishment meeting of IDA 16 (June 17-18). The visit will provide visiting MPs with a chance to see for themselves IDA results on the ground, prior to make their recommendations for the IDA16 replenishment. In addition, the visit will be an opportunity to experience the nature of the World Bank's dialogue with the Parliament of Mali. Field visit participants will meet with national MPs, government



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officials, the civil society, private sector and donor community, and visit IDA projects on the ground. Background material on the IDA meetings will be available at <http://www.worldbank.org/ida/>.

PUBLICATIONS

World Bank Group Data Now Free

The World Bank Group is now providing free, open, and easy access to its comprehensive set of data on global development. Some 2,000 indicators, including hundreds that go back 50 years will be available at the new interactive website “<http://data.worldbank.org>,” which offers advanced and accurate searches of databases, data visualization tools, and applications for developers. The Bank’s new policy underscores its commitment to transparency and accountability

State and Trends of the Global Carbon Market 2010

Despite the Financial and Economic Turmoil, the latest annual report from the World Bank on the global carbon market showed that in 2009 it grew to \$144 billion, up 6% from 2008 despite enduring its most challenging year to date. The global economic crisis negatively impacted both demand and supply sides and, as industrial output plummeted, the demand for carbon assets fell. The State and Trends of the Carbon Market 2010, released on May 26 by the World Bank at Carbon Expo in Cologne, also said that on the supply side, the reduction in access to capi-

tal made it difficult for many project developers to lock in financing. As a consequence, project origination ground to a halt. More information at www.carbonfinance.org.

Middle East and North Africa Recovering from the Crisis

According to the Bank, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is recovering from the financial crisis with growth in 2010 expected to be 4.4%. The recovery from the crisis differs by country depending on initial conditions, intensity of impact in the financial sector, price of oil, and balance of payments. High unemployment has been a problem in MENA for years, and the crisis has dimmed prospects for improvements in the near term. Among key long-term growth obstacles are access to finance, competitiveness issues, and regulatory uncertainty. More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/TMG48JN8C0>

WORLD BANK NEWS

Reproductive Health Action Plan 2010-2015

The fifth Millennium Development Goal (MDG 5) calls for a drop in the maternal mortality ratio by three-quarters between 1990 and 2015. However, the World Bank warned that family planning and other reproductive health programs that are vital to poor women have fallen off the development radars of many low-income countries, donor governments, and aid agencies. Released on May 11, the Bank’s Reproductive Health Action Plan 2010-2015 will help movement towards this goal, with Bank health

financing in 2010 expected to triple to an unprecedented \$4.1 billion; a 40% increase over the previous year’s record. More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/G8YPPFATMB0>

Brazil Becomes First Major Contributor to Haiti Reconstruction Fund

The Haiti Reconstruction Fund (HRF) gathered momentum recently after Brazil contributed US\$55 million to the multilateral mechanism set up to help the Caribbean nation rebuild following the devastating January 2010 earthquake. On May 11, 2010, Brazil became the first donor country to make such contribution, but at least 14 other countries are expected to contribute to replenish the fund, which the World Bank oversees as its fiscal agent and administrator. More at <http://go.worldbank.org/X4TRV30300>

Sri Mulyani Indrawati Appointed World Bank Group (WBG) Managing Director

May 4-World Bank President Robert Zoellick announced the appointment of Sri Mulyani Indrawati as Managing Director of the WBG. Ms. Indrawati has been Indonesia’s Minister of Finance since 2005, guiding economic policy for one of the most populous nations in the world, and navigating the global economic crisis by implementing key reforms. In her new role, Ms. Indrawati will supervise three regions: Latin America and Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, and East Asia and Pacific. More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/EVB27XOKJ0>