



# World Bank Update

PARLIAMENTARY NEWSLETTER

March 2010



*Hugh Bayley, Chairman of the PNoWB*

## EXCERPTS FROM A Q&A WITH HON. HUGH BAYLEY

A few weeks ago the Parliamentary Relations Team interviewed Hugh Bayley, Member of Parliament from the United Kingdom, Member of the House of Commons' International Development Committee, Chair of the Africa All Party Group and Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank. Hugh Bayley answered questions related to how in his capacity he encounters the World Bank, why he joined the PNoWB, how he assesses the interactions between the World Bank and Parliamentarians and finally addressed the increasingly important role MPs play in supporting the mission of an organization such as the World Bank.

### Interaction with the World Bank

As a member of the International Development Committee of the House of Commons Hugh Bayley and his colleagues from the committee visit the World Bank headquarters every other year to meet with its Senior Management including the President. Members also take the opportunity to meet with departments such as the Independent Evaluation Group, of great help in their role of scrutinizing the World Bank. In addition, World Bank senior officials, although they have the executive as main interlocutor, often meet with Parliament when they visit the UK.

**Joining the PNoWB** - Mr. Bayley joined the PNoWB as he believes it

is important to get to know the World Bank, since it is by far the world's biggest multi-lateral development agency and crucial to the process of reaching the Millennium Development Goals. As a PNoWB member, he values the annual conferences of the network which are a unique opportunity to exchange feedback with members both from donor and recipient countries during a Questions and Answers session with The World Bank President, Senior Management of the IMF and other international organizations. "It is important for MPs to provide feedback to the World Bank on how its policies impact populations in the field in recipient countries but also to convey perception from taxpayers in donor countries who fund the Bank's programs" he says.

### Assessing interaction between the World Bank and Parliamentarians

- Over the past 10 years since the inception of the PNoWB, the relationship between the World Bank and parliamentarians has significantly improved: "the World Bank wants to listen, it wants to engage with parliamentarians" says Hon. Bayley, who calls for the relationship to further "develop to a point where the World Bank's country office in each country has a regular and on-going relationship with parliamentarians sharing information and consultation".

**MPs and IDA** - At the crucial time of the IDA16 replenishment efforts, Hon. Bayley believes that MPs should and will play a pivotal role for increasing

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IDA funding as well as overall aid efficiency “as parliamentarians we must ensure that every dollar available is well spent ... and convince further the donors that aid is an important responsibility for donor countries”.

## FROM THE REGIONS

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

**Armenia** - National Assembly (NA) Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan received Asad Alam, World Bank Regional Director for the South Caucasus and Aristomene Varoudakis, Head of the World Bank Yerevan Office, on February 18. Mr. Abrahamyan highly assessed the efficiency of the WB programs carried out in Armenia for overcoming the current crisis in different sectors. Mr. Alam expressed his gratitude for the continuous cooperation with the Parliament, and the specific role that the NA is playing in ratifying all the WB programs for Armenia. As a sign of productive relationship, he mentioned the newly approved grant under the Bank's Institutional Development Fund (IDF) which is specifically focused on strengthening NA's capacity for policy formulation and public dialogue.

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**Bosnia and Herzegovina** - Given the rapidly changing economic environment in the wake of the global economic crisis, authorities in Bos-

nia and Herzegovina (BH) asked the World Bank for support to mitigate the impact of the economic crisis. It was agreed that the World Bank support will be used to: improve access to finance for SMEs, continue investments in infrastructure, and protect the most vulnerable through direct budget support. The World Bank team engaged in several rounds of consultations with the members of the parliament, particularly in the Federation BH (one of the country's two constituent entities) where strong vested interest still resist the proposed reforms. Consultations with the members of the parliament culminated on February 16 when the World Bank team and the IMF colleagues had a joint meeting with the Heads of Caucuses of the four ruling parties in the Federation BH Parliament, heads of the relevant parliamentary committees, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance, and the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Consultations with the members of parliament are proving to be useful to explain benefits of the proposed reforms, and will be continued in the coming days as the Federation BH authorities struggle to build consensus around the proposed reform program.

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**France** - In Paris on February 18-19, for meetings with French President Nicolas Sarkozy and Finance Minister Christine Lagarde, President Zoellick--alongside AFD Chief Executive Jean-Michel Severino--were invited by National Assem-

bly Vice-Chair Marc LeFur to meet with a number of French MPs with specific mandates and interests related to development, climate change, and international finance architecture. President Zoellick emphasized the Bank's response to the crises, post-crisis directions, and sought support for continued high level of financing for the WBG, including the IBRD capital increase. Responding to French MPs' concerns about the growing share of ODA resources going to multilateral programs at the expense of bilateral ones, Mr. Severino noted that development challenges were increasingly global in nature and required joint action by bilateral and multilateral institutions. He pointed to the strong complementarity between France's ODA priorities and those of the Bank, noting that the Bank, for instance, was the largest funder of education programs in francophone Africa.

For more information, please contact [Cmejia@worldbank.org](mailto:Cmejia@worldbank.org)

**Germany** - Mini-Bank meets Bundestag.- Three World Bank directors, representing each a region, network, and corporate, attended a roundtable with Members of the German Bundestag in Berlin on February 22, 2010. Stefan Koeberle, Director Strategy and Operations for LAC, Axel Peuker, Director for Strategy and Operations at the Corporate Secretariat, and Hartwig Schaefer, Director for Strategy and Operations at Sustainable Development Network (SDN) met with a group of MPs from the Bundestag Development Committee (AwZ) to discuss current and



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future Bank priorities. Mr. Schaefer presented SDN's current focus (climate change, energy - of course involving the trade-offs between renewables and fossil fuels); Mr. Koeberle discussed Haiti reconstruction (and lessons learned from Aceh) and social protection programs in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), and Mr. Peuker presented corporate issues, including voice, capital increase, and internal reforms. The topics were tailored to German interests. The informal format of the meeting, which provided MPs with direct access to Bank Senior Management in the German language, was appreciated by the participants, who welcome meetings along the same lines in the future. Participants included representatives from a range of parties. The Head of Development Committee, Mrs. Dagmar Woehrl also participated. On February 25, the three Directors and the World Bank's liaison officer for Austria also met with members of the Austrian Parliamentary Sub-Committee for Development in Vienna.

For more information please contact [sjouy@worldbank.org](mailto:sjouy@worldbank.org)

**Thailand** - This month the World Bank Integrity Vice Presidency (INT) organized its 4th regional workshop in Bangkok aimed at establishing a regional "Corruption Hunters Networks" in the South Asia and East Asia regions. These networks bring together national law enforcement officials and prosecutors in an effort to enhance development outcome and strengthen cooperation in managing fraud and corruption risks impacting

development outcome. According to Leonard McCarthy, World Bank Integrity Vice President, one of the objectives is to explore how INT referrals can trigger greater attention from national law enforcement authorities. "We have some good examples. The Philippine Ombudsman's Office has brought charges against several Department of Public Works Highway staff based on an INT investigation of bid rigging on Bank-financed roads projects. The Vigilance Department in the Indian state of Orissa is using INT's study of Bank-supported health care projects in the state to guide its own inquiry into irregularities in those projects. But there is a long way to go and these networks are a first step toward deepening this kind of cooperation," he added.

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**SELECTION OF UPCOMING  
ACTIVITIES FOR  
PARLIAMENTARIANS**

For more information on these activities, please contact [mtixeront@worldbank.org](mailto:mtixeront@worldbank.org). E-courses can be found on [www.parliamentarystrengthening.org](http://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 March, the Board should be reviewing the CASes from Cameroon, Jamaica and Sierra Leone. In all these



countries, members of parliament were involved in CAS consultations. In March also, CAS-Progress reports which does not require fully fledged consultations, should also be taken to the Board for Tanzania

***March 1 - E\*Learning: Parliament and Extractive Industry***

The aim of this E\*Learning course is to build the capacity of Members of Parliament to provide constructive political oversight over the entire extractive industry value chain, from the awarding of contract to revenue collection to sustainable development issues, with an emphasis on good governance and financial oversight. This training course is designed for Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff in all regions. <http://parliamentarystrengthening.org/>

***March 2-4 - Global Indicators Conference in Paris***

WBI and UNDP are organizing an International Conference on Benchmarking and Self-assessment for Democratic Legislatures in partnership with the Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF), the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), the In-



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ter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI). This conference is part of a larger, long term process in which several inter-parliamentary organizations have developed standards and assessment frameworks for democratic parliaments.

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## *Accreditation for 2010 Springs Meetings Opens on March 8*

The 2010 World Bank and International Monetary Fund Spring Meetings will be held on April 24 and 25 in Washington, DC. CSO representatives interested in attending are encouraged to apply for online accreditation which will open on Monday, March 8 and close on Monday, April 12. The Bank and the IMF Civil Society Teams will also be organizing a Civil Society Policy Forum from Thursday, April 22 through Sunday, April 25. Information on the CS Forum and the schedule of sessions will be posted by early April.

For Online registration, please visit <http://go.worldbank.org/ZEL7JBJM90>

## PUBLICATIONS

### *African Development Indicators 2010*

Drawn from the Bank's Africa database, this publication provides the most detailed collection of development data on Africa. Data are presented on more than 450 indicators of development for 53 African coun-

tries and 5 regional country groups including: basic indicators; national accounts; balance of payments; inflation; Millennium Development Goals; Paris Declaration indicators; and private sector development.

Read more at <http://publications.worldbank.org/>

### *Global Development Finance 2010: External Debt of Developing Countries*

The World Bank just released one of its flagship publications Global Development Finance (GDF) 2010. This is a World Bank's annual report on the external debt of developing countries- which includes comprehensive data for 128 countries, as well as summary data for regions and income groups. This is also available on CD-ROM, with more than 200 historical time series from 1970 to 2008, and country group estimates for 2009. It also highlights support from the World Bank Group to developing countries and the developments in debt restructuring in 2008. Together with this review of major financial developments in the previous year, you can find summary tables of regional and income group aggregates, and country tables.

Please consult <http://publications.worldbank.org/>

## NEWS

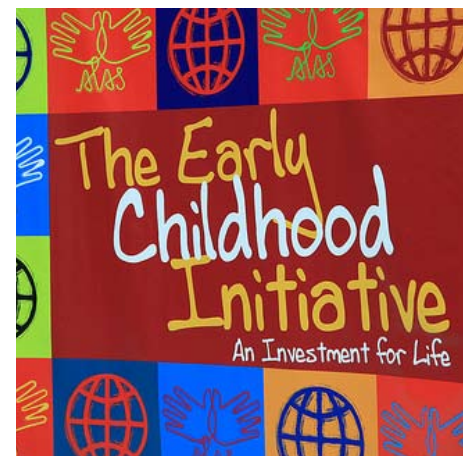
### *Liberia: Bank Support for Governance Helps a Nation Rebuild*

The Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, a pro-

gram supported by the Bank's International Development Association, is gathering data on revenue from the country's extractive industries and disseminating the information to the public, including communities where mining activities take place and traditional peoples live.

More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/MJC2LY5KG0>

### *Launch of an "Early Childhood Initiative"*



The initiative will provide over the next two years \$300 million in loans, grants and trust fund resources, as well as technical support, towards the design and implementation of Early Childhood Development (ECD) policies in Latin America and the Caribbean. It will also help expand ECD programs in a region where nine million children under five suffer from chronic malnutrition and 22 million lack access to early basic care.

More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/HFXMQ0K3K0>