



# World Bank Update

## PARLIAMENTARY NEWSLETTER

May 2010

### OPENING THE BANK TO PARLIAMENTARY CHAMPIONS

Washington DC- April 26-27, 2010.-Some 25 Parliamentarians and Staff -from Asia, Africa, America and Europe- representatives of both national parliaments and parliamentary organizations, gathered at the World Bank headquarters in Washington DC for the first ever Parliamentary Training program on the role of the World Bank in International Development. The event - initiated and organized by EXT's Parliamentary Relations Team - was hosted by the External Affairs' Vice Presidency and funded through its Innovation Fund.

The training event was a mutual learning experience both for the attending parliamentarians and the seasoned World Bank and IMF speakers. World Bank Management expressed strong interest in addressing the parliamenta-



*Parliamentarians visiting the World Bank Board Room*

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ry audience and engaged participants in very fruitful debates. In addition to being welcomed by the Bank's External Affairs department, participants amongst others learned of the Bank's support functions for its country offices; how the Bank secures the quality and results of its projects through independent evaluation and through strong anti-corruption measures; what the World Bank does to strengthen capacity in parliaments in developing countries; how the Bank supports the poorest countries, especially in Africa; and what the World Bank does to address climate change.

Marwan Muasher, World Bank Senior Vice President for External Affairs, and himself a former elected official stressed the importance for the World Bank to engage Parliamentarians as they are important partners in the institution's dialogue on development, both at the global and national levels."I expect you with your legislative and oversight experiences to express strongly your views and shape

the debate, and to use your influence also in matters concerning the World Bank Group".

The two day learning session triggered rich discussions and interesting questions: "How do we ensure that the learning from the Independent Evaluation Group is used to improve future projects' design?" asked an MP from Nigeria; "In a time of crisis we need to present very convincing arguments about the benefits of multilateral aid to our taxpayers" said the German participant. "I am talking to the right people today, because we are in a business where we don't lack know how, what we lack is political will- you can help us in holding your government accountable in our development efforts..." said Colin Bruce, World Bank Director for Operations in the Africa Region.

All participants insisted on the need for the World Bank to involve elected officials, as representatives of their people, at the earliest stage of its con-



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sultations processes be it at the country level through its Country Assistance Strategies or through its policy oriented consultation processes. All participants welcomed the openness of the Bank and asked for more of it. They also agreed that the World Bank came across as a hub of knowledge and expertise, but most of all that they had discovered a humble institution...

## WB/IMF SPRING MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON

April 24-25, 2010, Washington, D.C.-At the World Bank and IMF Spring Meetings, the Development Committee made history by endorsing the World Bank's first general capital increase in 20 years and increasing voting shares for develop-



ing and transition countries, helping to position the Bank Group for the transformed world emerging from the global economic crisis. In their final communiqué, the Development Committee

- Endorsed an increase of \$86.2 billion in capital for IBRD - including \$5.1 billion in paid-in capital

- Agreed to increase the voting power of developing and transition countries in IBRD by 3.13% to 47.19%. Since the Voice Reform process started in 2008 developing and transition countries have increased their share by 4.59 percentage points. IFC shares should shift by 6.07% bringing the total of developing and transition countries to 39.48%. The Development Committee agreed to a dynamic formula to decide allocation of share by the next review in 2015, with the aim to move over time towards equitable voting power between developed and developing and transition countries.

- Expressed support for the Bank Group's unprecedented response to the crisis, its post-crisis directions and its internal reforms. "The World Bank Group will be better equipped to address the development challenges of the 21st century and its overarching objective overcoming poverty. These ongoing reforms will strengthen the efficiency effectiveness and accountability of the World Bank Group," said the ministers in the Communiqué.

More information at <http://www.imf.org/external/spring/2010/index.htm>

## BRUSSELS HIGHLIGHTS

**WB President Zoellick met with President of the European Parliament, Jerzy Buzek on March**

26. Amongst the issues discussed were possibilities of strengthening relations between the EP and the WB, and EP concerns on the visibility of EU funds channeled through WB administered trust funds. President Zoellick invited Mr. Buzek to send a delegation of MEPs to meet WB senior management in second half of 2010 or early 2011. Mr. Buzek also suggested to Mr. Zoellick that the opening of the new EP office in Washington - tentatively scheduled for April 29 - could provide further opportunities for EP-WB engagement.

**On April 7, the first meeting of the Informal EP Informal Dialogue Group on IFIs** took place. Romanian MEP Corina Cretu - Vice Chair of the European Parliament Development Committee, also a Board Member of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank- organized a lunch meeting of the European Parliament informal dialogue group on International Financial Institutions at the European Parliament. The aim of the event was to establish a cross committee forum to allow MEPs to engage with IFIs on a regular basis. Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and the European representatives of the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Asian Development Bank, European Investment Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development attended the meeting. Discussions focused on the IFI's response to the financial crisis and support to developing countries, and the Parliament's own analysis of the impact of the crisis on developing countries captured



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in MEP Enrique Guerrero Salom's report on the issue. Contact: [glaryea@worldbank.org](mailto:glaryea@worldbank.org)

## 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 May, the Board is scheduled to review the CASes for Tajikistan (country team is also submitting the Tajikistan's Country Partnership Strategy together with Joint Staff Advisory Note for the third PRSP Progress Report) and Uganda, as well as the Interim Strategy Note (ISN) for the Comoros. In all these countries, members of parliament were involved in CAS consultations.



On March 23, the Bank's Board of Directors endorsed the Jamaica Country Partnership Strategy for the next four years, which outlines future financial and technical assistance to foster economic stability and promote inclusive

and sustained growth. The strategy is the result of close collaboration with the government, and benefited from wide consultations with parliamentarians, the private sector, civil society, youth organizations, trade unions and other international organizations. <http://go.worldbank.org/8QHJ9TKI40>

### *April to June 2010-Trade strategy consultations*

The World Bank group has launched consultations with external stakeholders to gather input for a trade strategy, which is expected to be completed in late 2010. The consultations will be part of a broad effort to gather a wide range of views on how the World Bank group can help developing countries create opportunities for the poor and grow economies sustainably. In addition to collecting comments online, the World Bank group will hold a series of meetings and videoconferences. It also will join other events in the first phase of consultations from around April through early June 2010. The feedback collected will be used to inform the drafting of the trade strategy. <http://go.worldbank.org/51ZIA9VDB0>

### *May 11-15-Sub-Saharan Study Group on Climate Change*

The meeting of the Members of Parliament from Sub-Saharan Africa will aim to identify the information and experience on the climate change that is most relevant to parliamentarians across the region, in order to provide guidance for the develop-

ment of training material to be used by amongst others to build the capacity of Sub-Saharan parliaments on climate change.

### *May 11-12-Executive Meeting of the South Asia PAC Association, Bhutan*

The meeting will bring together Members of Parliaments from South Asia, Maldives and Afghanistan. The aim of the event is to formulate the network of Public Accounts Committees (PACs) and to develop South-South dialogue.

### *May 16-19- Study Group on Parliamentary Audit, Finland*

The event will bring together approximately 30 participants – both MPs and parliamentary staff – from Ghana, Benin, Senegal, Tanzania, Kosovo, Turkey, Thailand, France, Germany, Denmark, Norway and Sweden, to discuss internal and external oversight mechanisms and tools available to Legislatures.

## PUBLICATIONS

### *East Asia Emerging Stronger from the Crisis*

The developing countries of East Asia, led by China, are recovering well from the global economic crisis, according to a new report from the World Bank. But how the region's leaders handle the next round of important economic decisions will determine the strength and speed of future growth. <http://go.worldbank.org/0B8QITE7U0>



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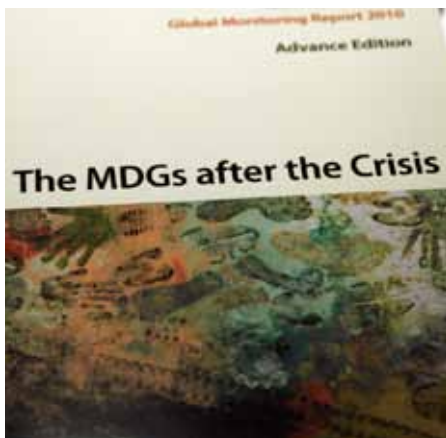
## NEWS

### *Rebuilding Better after a Disaster: Bank Handbook Guides Experts*

The 2008 earthquake in China claimed over 68,000 lives; with the recent quake in Haiti, some 230,000 people are feared dead. The toll in these calamities could have been dramatically reduced had homes, schools, hospitals and office buildings been built to withstand the earth's violent tremors. "Safer Homes, Stronger Communities" is a handbook giving policymakers and project managers the information they need to plan and carry out housing and community reconstruction projects that empower communities affected by disasters and that reduce their vulnerability to future disasters. <http://go.worldbank.org/LTNMG3BP30>

### *Global Monitoring Report 2010*

Global economic crisis has slowed the pace of poverty reduction in



developing countries, and is hampering progress toward the other Millen-

nium Development Goals (MDGs), says a new report from the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund, released on April 23, 2010. The crisis is having an impact in several key areas of the MDGs, including those related to hunger, child and maternal health, gender equality, access to clean water, and disease control, and will continue to affect long-term development prospects well beyond 2015, says the GMR 2010: The MDGs after the Crisis. [www.worldbank.org/gmr2010](http://www.worldbank.org/gmr2010)

### *World Development Indicators 2010*



Released in April, the report gives a statistical snapshot of progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The WDI database, launched along with the World Bank's Open Data initiative to provide free data to all users, includes more than 900 indicators documenting the state of all the world's economies. The WDI covers education, health, poverty, environment, economy, trade, and much more.

### *Cross debarment agreement with other MDBs*

The World Bank Group on April 9 signed a cross-debarment agreement with the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Inter-American Development Bank. Under the new agreement, entities debarred by one MDB will automatically be sanctioned for the same misconduct by other participating development banks. The agreement represents the first global enforcement mechanism that internationalizes sanctions against fraud and corruption in development projects. By raising the costs of corruption, MDBs are setting a level-playing field for multinational and national companies to enhance development effectiveness guided by integrity principles.

MacMillan Limited is ineligible to be awarded Bank-financed contracts for a period of six years in the wake of the company's admission of bribery payments relating to a Trust Fund-supported education project in Southern Sudan. The debarment can be reduced to three years subject to continued cooperation depending upon the company implementing a compliance program and further cooperation with the World Bank Integrity Vice Presidency (INT). Contact: [Delnaggar@worldbank.org](mailto:Delnaggar@worldbank.org)