



World Bank Update

PARLIAMENTARY NEWSLETTER

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*Chairman of the PNoWB Board,
UK MP Hugh Bayley*

WORLD BANK SCORES HIGH ON AID TRANSPARENCY

The World Bank Group scored the highest ratings on aid transparency among 30 leading multilateral and bilateral aid agencies, according to a recent study by Publish What You Fund called the “Aid Transparency Assessment 2010”. The World Bank was the highest overall scoring donor (85.4%), and is well above average in nearly all seven indicators. In particular, it received the highest score for all donors in “availability of specific aid information” and “aid reported on budget”. The study represents the first global report using the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standards, and is based on highly reliable international data sources, including OECD and EU. The study examines seven indicators related to access to information, quality of reporting, transparency of aid flows, support to freedom of information policies, and participation in IATI. Publish What You Fund is based in London, UK, and was launched at the 2009 Accra High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness by a coalition of CSOs who work on governance, aid effectiveness, and access to information. Among its founding members are InterAction in the US and Concord in Europe. To read the full report, go to <http://www.publishwhatyoufund.org>

EXTEU Parliamentary Relations Team organized a number of bilateral meetings for a visiting delegation of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB), led by the chair of the PNoWB Board, UK MP Hugh Bayley. PNoWB delegation members met with several representatives of the World Bank’s senior management, including Managing Director Sri Mulyani Indrawati, who amongst others supervises the Bank’s Governance and Anti-Corruption efforts; Vice President for External Affairs - including Parliamentary Relations – Caroline Anstey; and incoming World Bank Special Representative to Europe, Carlos Braga, currently Director for Economic Policy and Debt in the Bank’s Poverty Reduction and Economic Management unit, and acting Executive Secretary of the Development Committee. World Bank Management expressed support for the work of the PNoWB, and it was agreed to strengthen cooperation around certain issues. PNoWB was amongst others eager to learn about the Bank’s Open Data initiative and how parliamentarians around the world could more easily access this data, and use it to support their functions.



*Launching of the
Integrity Annual Report 2010*

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FROM THE REGIONS

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

PNOWB AT ANNUAL MEETINGS

On the occasion of the World Bank and IMF Annual Meetings, the

Ethiopia - The week of October 25 the World Bank’s Country Office in Ethiopia hosted a visit from the Sub-Committee on Trans-



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Atlantic Economic Relations of the NATO-Parliamentary Assembly. The Sub-Committee is producing a report on the impact of the global financial crisis on developing countries, and as part of this work asked the World Bank to host a visit to Ethiopia. The NATO-PA sees clear links between global and local security, with the latter being dependent on financial, social and food security – in other words development. The delegation, co-led



*NATO PA delegation and
WB Country Director Ken Ohashi at Ethiopia Parliament*

by John Sewel, member of the British House of Lords and Hugh Bayley, member of the British House of Commons, visited World Bank supported Productive Safety Net Projects in Tigray, seeing efforts undertaken to reverse environmental degradation and increase food security. MPs from France, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain were also part of the delegation, which met with national and regional Government representatives; the Speaker of Parliament; with Ethiopian academia, civil society and the private sector; with key donor countries present in Ethiopia, as well as with the African Union. For more information, see www.worldbank.org/ethiopia

Mongolia - The World Bank Office in Mongolia is supporting the capacity building of the standing committees and policy research center of the Great Khural (Parliament)

of Mongolia. The aim of the support is to enhance the institutional capacity of the legislative body in managing the country's national resources – including several world class large mining deposits – and converting these resources into development results. Jointly with the secretariat of the Mongolian Parliament, the World Bank's Country office organize a series of capacity building activities such as Parliamentary learning programs, aiming to enhance the role of Parliament through improving legislative processes, budget oversight, extractive industries oversight, and the information and communication system of the secretariat. In addition, regular policy dialogues on major development topics have been organized by using platform such as the Development information (DI) center, operated under the Parliament policy research center. The DI Center has been established with assistance of the WB and other partners to bring development information and knowledge closer to the Parliament and the staff. For the Parliamentary strengthening program, the World Bank has been working with other donors, including the UK within the Governance Partnership Facility. For more information please contact sjamba@worldbank.org

Brussels, Belgium - The World Bank's Vice President for Institutional Integrity, Leonard McCarthy participated in an exchange of views with the EP's Development Committee on Financial Management in International Organizations on October 4. His remarks focused on how the World Bank's anti-corruption efforts through enhanced prevention and in-

vestigative functions can provide relevant lessons learned and best practice experience on dealing with potential corruption and financial mismanagement in the European External Action Service (EEAS), the EU's new diplomatic service. To this end MEPs sought information from Mr. McCarthy on how investigations on corruption are launched within the Bank, and how the Bank works with other MDBs and institutions on addressing and preventing corruption. For more information please contact glaryea@worldbank.org

Brussels, Belgium - The EP's Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee sent a 5-person delegation to participate in a number of side meetings during the WB/IMF Annual Meetings in October. The delegation included the Chair of the ECON Committee UK MEP Sharon Bowles and Polish MEP and former European Commissioner Danute Huebner. Two meetings were held with World Bank Staff. In a meeting between Andrew Burns, Manager in the WB Development Prospects Group, and Danute Huebner, discussions focused on the Bank's work in ECA EU countries, and the role of the WB in these countries, in areas such as pension, health and education reforms. Issues relating to the post crisis economic growth, especially in MICs, including new EU member states were also discussed. Ms Huebner also met with WB EC Director of Strategy and Operations - Ted Ahlers and other members of the ECA Management Team to further exchange views on the recovery from the global economic crisis in the ECA region. The entire delegation also attended IMF Seminars on 'Global



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Economic Governance’ and ‘The Future of the Global Financial and Monetary System’. For more information, please contact glaryea@worldbank.org

Berlin, Germany - The Vice President for the World Bank’s Operations Policies and Country Services (OPCS), Mr. Joachim von Amsberg, met with members of the Budget Committee of the German Parliament or ‘Bundestag’ on October 1 and 4, including the Committee’s speaker and MPs from the two major parties Christian (CDU) and Social Democrats (SPD). Besides using this opportunity to personally introduce himself in his new position, Mr. von Amsberg provided comprehensive background information on internal World Bank reforms, with particular emphasis on aid effectiveness, the results agenda and the complementarity of bi- and multilateral aid. In this context IDA achievements and the ongoing IDA16 process were discussed. Mr. von Amsberg also met with the Parliamentary State Secretary of the Development Ministry (BMZ) Ms. Gudrun Kopp. For more information, please contact rvenghaus@worldbank.org

Madrid, Spain - World Bank Managing Director Nogzi Okonjo-Iweala included MPs in the program of her visit to Madrid on September 13. Okonjo-Iweala met with the head of the Parliamentary Committee for development, Ms. Delia Blanco, to brief her on the IDA16 replenishment process. While Spanish MPs do not directly decide on the IDA contributions, their vote is essential to endorse overall ODA budget and approve disbursements. The

meeting offered a chance to address progress towards the MDGs, delving into WBG efforts to reach the goals and exchanging views on the position of Spain and the Bank at the September Summit on MDGs. Finally, Ms. Blanco was keen on hearing about the Bank’s work on gender and the preparation of the upcoming WDR 2012 on gender and development. For more information, please contact jbarrera@worldbank.org

SELECTION OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

For more information on these activities, please contact mtixeront@worldbank.org
E-courses can be found on www.parliamentarystrengthening.org

Consultations on Country Strategies (CAS/CPS)

The World Bank regularly engages parliamentarians and other constituencies during consultations on



the Country Strategies (CAS or CPS). The Board is scheduled to review the Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for Bhutan and members of parliament were involved in the consultations. The Interim Strategy Notes (ISN) for Honduras and Thailand are also scheduled to the Board in November but -unlike CAS- extensive consultations are not generally required in the process.

November 2-4- Removing Financial Barriers to Health care access, Dakar, Senegal

Regional Workshop, gathering health practitioners and experts from West and Central African Countries for exchange of experiences on providing financial access for the poor in Africa. The workshop is organized and sponsored by a coalition of partners and development actors involved, including the Bank. Parliamentarians as well as policymakers who can push for health reforms have been encouraged to attend and will be joining health experts and practitioners from the region.

November 8-World Bank Education Strategy at Unesco/Paris

This Second phase of consultations on the World Bank Group’s Education Sector Strategy 2020 will take place at Unesco/Paris. Elizabeth King, World Bank, Director of Education will present and discuss the new draft strategy which incorporates feedback from the 1st round of global consultation. See the draft on www.worldbank.org/educationstrategy2020

November 29-30-Launch of women MPs’ caucus and workshop for women MPs, Dhaka, Bangladesh

This will be the first non-partisan grouping of women MPs in Bangladesh. The launch will be followed by a capacity-building workshop for women MPs and will be focused on promoting constitutional amendments designed to promote gender equity.



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November 12-13-PAM Conference in Naples

This Panel on External Trade and Investments in the Mediterranean is organized by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) in Naples. Olivier Cattaneo will represent the World Bank at the conference, to share expertise about trade integration in the Mediterranean area

December Heads Up

- 2-3 - Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Conference in Geneva
- 2-4 - PNoWB Annual Conference 2010 in Brussels
- 4-5 - GLOBE Legislators Forum co-sponsored by COMplus in Mexico

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Third seat for Sub-Saharan Africa

As of October 8, 2010, The World Bank Group has added a third seat for Sub-Saharan Africa to its executive board after the institution's governors elected Dr Renosi Mokate, Former Deputy Governor of the South African Reserve Bank, to the Bank's 25 member Board. Developing and transition country shares in the Bank have seen a 4.6% increase over the past two years and now stand at 47.2%. More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/8DQDUJUA0>

Open Data, Open Knowledge and Open Solutions Initiative

The World Bank Group is releasing a wide range of tools and technology applications to empower

more collaborative and effective solutions to global challenges, as part of the institution's commitment to "Open Development." The Bank has doubled the number of datasets available to the public for free, and has kicked off an Apps for Development competition to challenge software developers and international experts to use Bank tools and datasets to come up with new development solutions. More information at <http://www.worldbank.org/open/>

Collaborative platforms for MPs

- **AGORA**-Website designed to encourage collaboration around the world, as a platform for facilitating a web-based network for Parliamentary Monitoring Organizations. <http://www.agora-parl.org>
- **International Budget Partnership**-Collaborates with civil society around the world to analyze and influence public budgets in order to reduce poverty and improve the quality of governance. <http://www.internationalbudget.org>
- **PFM Board** – Useful tool for parliamentary researchers, where practitioners meet to discuss Public Financial Management. <http://www.PFMBoard.com>

Bank Reactivates Food Fund

Amid concern over heightened food price volatility and its impact on poor countries, the Bank will extend the life of its food crisis response program to June 2011, as was announced on October 18. The move will allow the Bank to re-

spond more swiftly to calls for assistance by countries hit hard by food price spikes, by allowing the fast-track processing and disbursement of up to US\$760 million in existing funds for countries in need. More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/3Q8JJ2TFW0>

PUBLICATIONS

East Asia and Pacific (EAP) Update

The economic recovery in East Asia and the Pacific is robust, but attention must now turn to managing emerging risks which may pose challenges to macroeconomic stability, says the World Bank in its latest East Asia and Pacific Economic Update titled "Robust Recovery, Rising Risks" and released on October 19. The Update notes that output has recovered to above pre-crisis levels throughout developing East Asia, and is expanding at near pre-crisis rates in some countries. More information at www.worldbank.org/eapupdate

Bank Sees Strong Progress in Managing Corruption

Institutional Integrity launched its 2010 Annual Report on October 8th. As the Bank Group delivered record commitments to partner countries affected by the economic crisis, it also concluded a strong year in its anticorruption efforts, with 45 debarments of wrongdoing firms, a new agreement with other multilateral banks to cross-debar corrupt companies, and robust preventive efforts to help ensure Bank-financed projects deliver results. More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/036LY1EJJ0>