

# World Bank Update

## PARLIAMENTARY NEWSLETTER

November 2011



Shanta Devarajan, World Bank Chief Economist for Africa Region at 5th Session of Pan-African Parliament.



Professor Ben Turok, MP (left), Shanta Devarajan and Khalid Dahab of PAP at Press Conference.



Jim Adams (World Bank) with Japanese Chapter of the Parliamentary Network

### PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT 5TH SESSION

The 5th Session of the Pan-African Parliament opened in Midrand, South Africa, on October 11, 2011 and featured keynote presentations by Shantayanan Devarajan, World Bank Chief Economist in the Africa Region. Devarajan spoke on “Africa’s Future and the World Bank’s Support to It”, followed by Professor Ben Turok, MP, South Africa who spoke about the “Move from Aid Effectiveness to Development Effectiveness”. During his presentation on the World Bank’s strategy for the Africa Region, Devarajan focused on Africa’s strong growth prospects, noting that between 2003-2008, Africa’s growth rate was 5.7%, and that thanks to sound policies, African economies recovered faster than other countries after the 2008 crisis. He explained that competitiveness and employment and vulnerability and resilience rest on a foundation of governance and public sector capacity. A good discussion and debate with parliamentarians followed, focusing on impact evaluation, the challenge of taming inflation, and stronger inclusion of women and youth in the development process. The Hon. Joram Gumbo, MP and Fourth Vice President presented a report on the seminar for parliamentarians organized by the World Bank in May 2011. Overall, the knowledge-sharing event enabled the World Bank to reach out to over 20 African parliamentarians. For more information please contact [shussain@worldbank.org](mailto:shussain@worldbank.org)

### PARLIAMENTARY ENGAGEMENT AT COUNTRY LEVEL

*Please find after a selection of activities undertaken by country offices over the last month*

**Manila, Philippines, on October 10** - World Development Report 2011 author Nigel Roberts shared insights on Conflict, Security and Development in a technical briefing held October 10, 2011 at the Philippines House of Representatives. Held as part of the State and Peace-building Fund program, the briefing was timely as the Philippine Government stepped up peace initiatives with armed groups seeking to establish an Islamic state in parts of southern Philippines. The briefing was organized by the Office of the Speaker and the Committee on Peace, Unity and Reconciliation with the support of the Knowledge for Development Center at the House of Representatives. Deputy House Speaker Erin Tanada and Committee Chairperson Jesus Sacdalan led the fourteen legislators participating in the discussion. For more information please contact [hgrageda@worldbank.org](mailto:hgrageda@worldbank.org).

**Paris and The Hague, in October** - The World Development Report 2012 (WDR2012) on Gender Equality and Development launched during the Annual Meetings focuses on the evolution of gender equality across the world in the context of the development process. Following the September launch, the WDR2012 team has presented the report’s findings to Par-

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liamentarians in Europe. **On October 12** Aline Coudouel, World Bank Senior Economist from the WDR2012 Team presented the Report's main findings to selected MPs, Representatives and NGO members of the parliamentary Population and Development Committee at the French National Assembly. **On October 26** World Bank Gender Specialist Ana Maria Munoz Boudet presented the Report to the Foreign Policy Committee in the Dutch Parliament. Ms. Munoz Boudet also briefed committee members on the World Bank's efforts to mainstream gender in its lending portfolio and country assistance strategies and to make gender data more accessible through the expansion of its dedicated database and website on gender. For more information, please see [www.worldbank.org/gender](http://www.worldbank.org/gender).

**Mexico** - On August 4, the World Bank approved a grant of \$350,000 under the **Institutional Development Fund (IDF)** to finance the Institutional Strengthening of the Mexican Congress in a second phase of administrative reforms. It comes as a follow up of a first IDF grant provided to the Lower House of Representatives of Mexico. The present IDF aims at systematizing legislative information under a knowledge management approach; reinforcing the technical capacity of Congress to generate, analyze and discuss information during the different stages of the budgetary cycle; and, automate the human resource procedures of the House of Representatives. For more information, please contact [fzavaleta@worldbank.org](mailto:fzavaleta@worldbank.org)

**New York, on October 17** - A delegation of mainly women MEPs from the European Parliament's Centre Left Group PSE met with the World Bank's UN office while on mission to New York on October 17. The delegation, led by Ms. Zita Gurmai (Hungary), presented its program – 'Women of Europe, same rights, same fights' - to the World Bank. It includes a strong focus on equal rights, pension and jobs. WB Special Representative to the UN Dominique Bichara, in turn, presented the Bank's work on gender and jobs (WDR 2012 and 2013, mainstreaming gender in operations, IDA and results). The MEPs welcomed the Bank's work and activities in these areas and also commended the Bank for having two women amongst its three managing directors as well as several female vice presidents. For more information please contact [glaryea@worldbank.org](mailto:glaryea@worldbank.org)

**Tokyo, Japan, on October 13 and 25** - The World Bank Office in Tokyo, Japan, organized two breakfast meetings with the Japanese chapter of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and IMF in October: **on October 13** for World Bank Vice President for East Asia and the Pacific (EAP) Jim Adams (on EAP launch of higher education), and **on October 25** for Vice President for the South Asia Region (SAR) Isabel Guerrero (focusing on SAR's annual consultation with the Japanese Government). On both occasions, Chair of the Parliamentary Network, Japan, former Foreign Minister Koumura participated as well as several other parliamentarians from ruling and opposition par-

ties. There were also bilateral meetings with Parliamentary Secretary of Finance Mitani and Senior Vice Minister of Finance Igarashi. Additional meetings with former Foreign Minister Kawaguchi and former Parliamentary Secretary of Foreign Affairs Nishimura also took place. For more information please contact [ktaniguchi@worldbank.org](mailto:ktaniguchi@worldbank.org)

**Berlin, Germany, on October 18-19** - Vice President of the World Bank's Operations Policies



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and Country Services OPCS, Joachim von Amsberg and Dagmar Woehrl, Chair of the Development Committee of the Bundestag, formally launched the Bundestag Working Group on the World Bank **on October 19**. Mr. von Amsberg discussed the Bank's role in a changing multipolar world, donor coordination and the complementarity of bi- and multilateral aid, as well as the Bank's ongoing initiatives, including Program for Results Financing and budget support, the Bank's results agenda, and the Open Data and Access to Information policies. **On October 18**, Mr. von Amsberg also met with the parliamentary Working Group on Economic Cooperation and Development of the Christian Democratic Party/Christian Social Union



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(CDU/CSU), where similar issues were discussed. For more information please contact [sjouy@worldbank.org](mailto:sjouy@worldbank.org).

**Brussels, Belgium, on October 19** - During his mission to Brussels, World Bank Vice President for Europe and Central Asia, Philippe Le Houerou met with the European Parliament's Chair of the Delegation to the EU-Kazakhstan, EU-Kyrgyzstan and EU-Uzbekistan Parliamentary Cooperation Committees, Mr. Paolo Bartolozzi. Discussions focused on Central Asia, in particular on the World Bank's approach to the water and energy nexus and the European Parliament's recent report on the European Union's Central Asia Strategy. The meeting provided a good opportunity for the Bank to explain its comprehensive, long term program to build energy and water security for the region through enhanced cooperation. For more information please contact [glaryea@worldbank.org](mailto:glaryea@worldbank.org).

**Brussels, Belgium, on October 20** - Representatives of the World Bank Brussels Office participated in a public hearing on the results of the EU pilot project on Roma inclusion hosted by Livia Járóka, MEP the Chair of the Roma Working Group of the European People's Party on October 20 2011. The main purpose of the hearing was to take stock of the pilot in view of their possible mainstreaming into the Roma national strategies. The two-year pilot project consists of four strands - early childhood education, microcredit, awareness raising and data collection. The presentations were followed by a roundtable

discussion, kicked off by Katarina Mathernova, World Bank/Europe and Central Asia Region Senior advisor, and Aurel Ciobanu-Dordea of the European Commission. For more information please contact [glaryea@worldbank.org](mailto:glaryea@worldbank.org)

**Tajikistan** - Since 2010 the World Bank has been supporting the Parliament of Tajikistan through building the capacity of its members, primarily its Committee for Economy and Finance for undertaking its oversight role in the country's budget process. Funding comes from the **Governance Partnership Facility** and has enabled the establishment of a secretariat staffed with budget experts to assist the parliament members in reviewing the 2010 budget implementation and preparing discussions and hearings on the draft budget for 2012 - 2014. In the medium term the program will also focus on (i) further strengthening Parliament's capacity through training; (ii) supporting advisory and analytical work on budget issues; (iii) and helping strengthen Parliament's external communication on budget issues. For more information please contact [mkolmatov@worldbank.org](mailto:mkolmatov@worldbank.org)

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

*For more information on these activities, please contact [mtixeront@worldbank.org](mailto:mtixeront@worldbank.org). For e-courses you can consult [www.parliamentarystrengthening.org](http://www.parliamentarystrengthening.org)*

**November 21, 2011-December 16, 2011 –E-Learning Parliaments and the Budget**

Legislatures ensure that the budget optimally matches a nation's needs with available resources. This course provides participants with a comprehensive understanding of the role and responsibilities of parliaments and the budgetary process. The same course is also delivered in French from November 2-November 30.

**November 13-19-SADCOPAC Annual Seminar, in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.**

The aim of this seminar is to provide a forum for south-south knowledge exchange for Southern Africa Development Community of Public Accounts Committees (SADCOPAC) member states on good practice for Public Accounts Committees and Supreme Audit Institutions on parliamentary oversight of the budget.

**November 14-17-NATO PA's visit in Djibouti**

A delegation of more than 20 parliamentarians from the Mediterranean and Middle East Special Group Special Group and Political Committee of the NATO-Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA) is traveling to Djibouti in November. The delegation will get a briefing by the IMF and the World Bank Group.

**November 22-EP's Trade Committee in Brussels**

The Director of the International Trade department for the World



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Bank Group, Mr. Bernard Hoekman will present the World Bank’s recently-released Trade Strategy 2020 at this meeting of the Committee on International Trade (INTA).

### **November 28-December 2-CPA UK Annual Conference on the MDGs, London**

The World Bank will address the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK Branch (CPA UK) Conference on “Reaching for 2015: Governance, Accountability and the Role of the Parliamentarian”. The World Bank in its intervention will focus on openness and transparency.

### **December 5-NATO PA Conference in Washington DC**

The Parliamentary Transatlantic Forum of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly is taking place at the National Defense University (NDU) in Washington D.C. World Bank Managing Director Caroline Anstey will address the group, laying out the Bank’s view on the Development-Security Nexus.

## NEWS & PUBLICATIONS

### **Doing Business Report 2012: Doing Business in a More Transparent World**

This World Bank Group report released on October 20 finds that economies continued to implement reforms that enhance local firms’ ability to do business, with transparency and access to information playing a

key role in the reforms. The report assesses regulations affecting domestic firms in 183 economies and ranks



the economies in 10 areas of business regulation, such as starting a business, resolving insolvency and trading across borders. More information at [www.doingbusiness.org](http://www.doingbusiness.org)

### **Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI)**

The 2011 update of the WGI, launched on October 4, shows aggregate and individual governance indicators for 213 economies over the period 1996–2010, for six dimensions of governance: Voice and Accountability, Political Stability and Absence of Violence, Government Effectiveness, Regulatory Quality, Rule of Law and Control of Corruption. The aggregate indicators combine the

views of a large number of enterprise, citizen and expert survey respondents in industrial and developing countries. More information at [www.govindicators.org](http://www.govindicators.org).

### **Greater transparency needed to uncover flows of criminal funds**

Most large-scale corruption cases involve using legal entities to conceal ownership and control of corrupt proceeds, and policymakers should take steps to improve transparency to reduce opportunities for wrongdoing, according to a study released on October 25 by the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative of the World Bank and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The report, *The Puppet Masters: How the Corrupt Use Legal Structures to Hide Stolen Assets and What to Do About It*, is available at [www.worldbank.org/star](http://www.worldbank.org/star)

### **World Bank Assignments**

Effective as of November 1, 2011, the appointment of Cyril Muller, as Vice President, External Affairs.

### **Study Explores Efforts of Citizen Organizations to Monitor Parliaments**

A new report by National Democratic Institute NDI and the World Bank Institute, *Strengthening Parliamentary Accountability, Citizen Engagement and Access to Information*, examines the work of some 190 parliamentary monitoring organizations (PMOs) that are monitoring more than 80 parliaments worldwide. These groups are helping citizens sift through and make sense of vast amounts of parliamentary information on such topics as voting records, the content of floor debates and committee deliberations to ensure that citizen interests are represented and legislators are held accountable. Published in September 2011, the report is available at <http://www.ndi.org/files/governance-parliamentary-monitoring-organizations-survey-september-2011.pdf>