



# World Bank Update

PARLIAMENTARY NEWSLETTER

October 2009



*World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings*

## PARLIAMENTARIANS JOIN THE WORLD BANK/IMF ANNUAL MEETINGS

Representatives of the Board of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB) travelled to Istanbul, Turkey for the 2009 Annual Meetings of the World Bank and IMF. Together with the PNoWB secretariat, the World Bank Parliamentary team organized a program for the participants, which were registered as delegates or special guests, giving them full access to the meetings. Two of the MPs were also invited to address sessions during the civil society forum.



*PNoWB Board Members in Conversation with Bank Representatives*

## TABLE OF CONTENT

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| - Feature Story                            | Page 1 |
| - From the Regions                         | Page 1 |
| - Upcoming activities for Parliamentarians | Page 2 |
| - Publications                             | Page 4 |

The parliamentary delegation consisted of Ms. Corina Cretu, Vice-Chair of the Development Committee of the European Parliament; Dr. Alain Destexhe, a Belgian Senator and a former Secretary-general of Médecins Sans Frontières; Janette L. Garin, a medical doctor and member of the Philippines House of Representatives since 2004; Ms. Ndeye Fatou Touré, a lawyer by training, member of the Senegalese Parliament since 2007 and actively involved in several committees and international parliamentary organizations; Mr. Jerome Evrard, Head of the PNoWB Secretariat.

The delegation met with a wide variety of senior officials from the World Bank, IMF and other development institutions including Vice President for Concessional Finance and Partnerships (CFP) Axel van Trotsenburg; The Africa region's Director for Strategy and Operations Colin Bruce; Spe-

cial Representative for Europe Cyril Muller; and Senior Adviser and Head of the International Policy and Partnership Group Jeffrey Lewis. Through the frank and open discussions, MPs gained insight in the current state of the global economy and explored options for cooperation with the Bank, as well as how as parliamentarians they can better hold their governments accountable on aid commitments and development programs.

The World Bank highly encourages Parliamentarians' participation in the World Bank and IMF Spring and Annual Meetings in order to make the meetings more transparent, but also in recognition of the importance of this constituency as an effective advocate for development.

## FROM THE REGIONS

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

**South Africa** – Under the World Bank's South-South Experience Exchange program, 13 senior parliamentarians from Nepal visited South Africa. The delegation was led by H.E. Minendra Rijal, Minister of Federal and Parliamentary Affairs. The MPs were hosted by H.E. Ebrahim Ebrahim, Deputy Minister, International Relations and Cooperation, and met with their counterparts on South Africa's transition to a democracy, budget processes, the problems of apartheid and its impact on spatial geography, and policies and



# World Bank Update



*Nepalese MPs at World Bank Office in Pretoria, Sarwat Hussain*

programs for integrating armed forces in South African society in the 1990s. The study tour was coordinated by Hisanobu Shishido, Senior Economist, World Bank Office in Nepal.

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

**Serbia** - William Dillinger, Lead Public Sector Management Specialist of the World Bank discussed the Public Expenditure Review for Serbia (“How to do more with less”) with some 25 Serbian Parliamentarians. Parliamentarians expressed particular interest in suggestions related to reforming health and education sectors, as well as proposals pertaining changes in the pension system. Representatives of the parliamentary committees on health and poverty reduction invited the World Bank experts to attend their sessions in order to discuss findings relevant for their scope of work in more details.

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

**Armenia** - The Head of the World Bank Armenian Office, Aristomene Varoudakis, met with National Assembly Speaker Hovik Abraham. The latter stressed that the National Assembly is ready to promote the highly valued cooperation between the Armenian Authorities and the World Bank. In that regard he appreciated the implementation of oversight functions by Parliament; indeed this way Armenia will get most out its World Bank loans to revive the economy of the country.

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**London, the Hague** – Early September, World Bank Vice President Axel van Trotsenburg met with representatives of parliamentary organizations. Axel van Trotsenburg has recently been appointed Vice President for Concessional Finance and Global Partnerships in the World Bank Group and is responsible for the mobilization of resources for the poorest member countries. During his con-

versation with UK MP Hugh Bayley, Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank, topics included the need for support to the next IDA replenishment; World Bank effectiveness and impact on the ground and possible joint events. Axel van Trotsenburg discussed similar issues with AWEPA Director John McKendy.

For more information please contact [jkopperud@worldbank.org](mailto:jkopperud@worldbank.org) or [evandamme@worldbank.org](mailto:evandamme@worldbank.org)

**Brussels** - On October 1st, Zia Qureshi, Senior Adviser at the World Bank gave a presentation to the Social and Environmental Committee from the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) -EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA). He was invited as a key expert speaker to discuss the impact of the economic crisis on MDGs, in preparation of the committee’s next report “The social impact of the Global Crisis”. As next steps, the working document will be discussed at the ACP-EU JPA in Luanda, 30 November – 3 December and is planned to be adopted at the Spring 2010 plenary session in Spain.

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

## SELECTION OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS

For more information on these activities, please contact [evandamme@worldbank.org](mailto:evandamme@worldbank.org). E-courses can be found on [www.parliamentarystrengthening.org](http://www.parliamentarystrengthening.org)



# World Bank Update

## ***Consultations on Country Assistance Strategies (CAS)***

The World Bank regularly engages parliamentarians and other constituencies in CAS consultations in country offices. For example, in the following countries, consultations with national parliaments were held for Country Assistance Strategies that have been or will be sent to the Board in October: Serbia (CAS-Progress Reports), or in November: Kyrgyz, Belarus (CAS Progress Reports), Seychelles, Kosovo (Interim Strategy Notes), Tajikistan (CAS).

## ***Starting September 28 E-Learning: the role of parliaments in curbing corruption***

The Curbing Corruption course (6 weeks) considers the role for parliament as a role model, legislator and representative in reducing corruption in a nation and improving standards for fighting against it.

## ***8 October - February 2010 WBG Environment Strategy consultations***

Senior Manager Environment Michele de Nevers will hold Environment Strategy consultations with the European Parliament on October 8. The consultations are part of a global dialogue with World Bank stakeholders. You can consult the Environment Strategy Note and send in your comments until February 15th at [www.worldbank.org/environment-consultations](http://www.worldbank.org/environment-consultations).

## ***16-17 October Workshop on Parliamentary Oversight in the Arab Region, Lebanon***

The workshop will help contribute to a UNDP-led regional project aimed at identifying good practice in parliamentary oversight and will contribute to WBI's efforts to develop a global parliamentary oversight database.

## ***25-26 October GLOBE Legislator's Forum, Denmark***

The GLOBE Legislator's forum ahead of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in Copenhagen, Denmark is co-organized by GLOBE and the ComPlus Alliance (including the World Bank). World Bank Lead Energy Specialist for LAC, Todd Johnson, will present Mexico's Low Carbon Study.

## ***26-29 October LAC Regional seminar on Legislative Oversight of the Budget and Anti-Corruption Initiatives, Finland***

The aim of this workshop, organized in partnership with the Parliament of Finland, is to examine the role legislatures in Latin America play in financial oversight and anti-corruption.

## ***26-29 October Field visit to Mongolia***

The Mongolia Country Office, the World Bank Parliamentary Relations Team and the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB) are preparing a Parliamentary Field

visit to Mongolia. The visit gives MPs the opportunity to see how the World Bank supports the Mongolian Government in its efforts to address the impact of financial crisis, how to protect the poor during the associated downturn and how to best manage natural resources.

## ***31 October 1,2,7,9,14,16,21 November Parliamentary Press Corps Training, Ghana***

This course will provide technical training for the Ghana press corps on parliamentary structure and procedures.

## ***October-November E-learning course on parliament and media***

The course *Role of Parliaments in Promoting an Information Rich Society* helps parliaments to facilitate the flow of information between parliament and the community via the media.

## ***9-12 November Seminar on the Role of Public Accounts Committees and Auditors General, Dhaka, Bangladesh***

This Seminar will combine theoretical and practical aspects of Public Accounts Committees and address performance, Auditors General, benchmarking and standards, national and regional associations and country action plans.

## ***19-20 November Pacific Benchmarks Workshop, Cook Islands***

The aim of the workshop, organized in partnership with CPA



# World Bank Update

and UNDP, is to bring together Speakers and Clerks of Pacific Parliaments to finalize and endorse Pacific Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures.

### ***30 November – 3 December Presentation of the Disaster Risk Reduction Facility, Luanda***

**S**aroj Jha, Programme Manager SGFDRR, has been invited to the EU - Africa Caribbean and Pacific Joint Parliamentary Assembly for a presentation on the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction.

### ***30 November – 4 December Field visit to Burkina Faso***

**T**he Burkina Faso Country Office, the World Bank Parliamentary Relations Team and the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB) are preparing a Parliamentary Field visit to Burkina Faso.

## PUBLICATIONS

### ***Economics of Adaptation to Climate Change***

**T**he costs of adaptation to climate change in developing countries will be in the order of US\$75-100 billion per year for the period 2010 to 2050 according to preliminary findings in the Economics of Adaptation to Climate Change (EACC) study.

More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/U096BP73J0>

### ***'Climate Smart' World Within Reach, says Bank Report***

**T**he Bank's World Development Report 2010: Development and Climate Change, released September 15, says developing countries can shift to lower-carbon paths while promoting development and reducing poverty, but this depends on financial and technical assistance from high-income countries. If developed countries act now, a 'climate-smart' world is feasible.

More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/ZXULQ9SCC0>

### ***Low-Income Countries Face Long Recovery, Require More and Better Support***

Forty-three low-income developing countries are still suffering the consequences of the global recession, leaving 89 million more people in extreme poverty by the end of 2010, according to a Bank paper prepared for the G-20 meeting in Pittsburgh. The paper recommends coordinated policy action by the G-20 and others on agriculture, support for small- and medium-sized enterprises, and crisis response.

More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/W725NIA7R0>

### ***Doing Business 2010: Reforming through Difficult Times***

**T**he IFC–World Bank Doing Business 2010 report, launched September 9, shows that a record 131

economies around the globe reformed business regulations in 2008/09. That is more than 70 percent of the 183 economies covered by the report—the largest share in any year since the annual report was first published in 2004. For the first time a sub-Saharan African economy, Rwanda, is the world's top reformer of business regulations.

More information at <http://www.doingbusiness.org/>

### ***Grateful for your help in identifying Parliamentary Monitoring Organizations***

The World Bank Institute (WBI) and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) are mapping parliamentary monitoring organizations (PMOs). Indeed, there is a growing number of civil society organizations engaged in monitoring the functioning and performance of national and sub-national legislatures and they could benefit from exchanging lessons learned. This joint initiative collects information about the types of activities of PMOs, their effectiveness and impact and best practices. It also seeks to advice the international donor community on whether and how to best support parliamentary monitoring initiatives.

If you can provide any assistance in identifying PMOs and legislative research organizations with monitoring components, please contact Andrew G. Mandelbaum at [andrew.g.mandelbaum@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.g.mandelbaum@gmail.com)