

World Bank Update

PARLIAMENTARY NEWSLETTER

October 2011

THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK ON THE WORLD BANK (PNoWB) TO INCLUDE THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

The Board of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB) on September 20 announced that it is expanding its cooperation with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and formally changed its name to the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. The launch of the new name took place on September 20 in the presence of IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde and World Bank President Robert Zoellick, and marked the beginning of the second workshop for parliamentarians in 2011, hosted regularly by the IMF and the World Bank in cooperation with the Parliamentary Network at the Spring and Annual Meetings of the Bretton Woods Institutions.

World Bank President Robert Zoellick in his remarks referred to the Bank's decade long partnership with the Parliamentary Network, and em-



Parliamentary Delegation with IMF Managing Director, C. Lagarde & World Bank President R. B. Zoellick

phasized how the Bank's efforts to geo-map World Bank projects, and only provide budget support to countries publishing their budgets within 12 months, can help strengthen parliamentary checks and balances. Hugh Bayley (MP, UK, and Member of the Board of the Parliamentary Network) noted that the Parliamentary Network "needs to work with the IMF as well as the World Bank if we are going to make a difference in addressing challenges still remaining after the recent global economic and financial crisis as well as to global poverty. Advanced and emerging countries need sustainable job-rich growth, and developing countries need sound economic policies as well as aid. World leaders must not forget their obligations to the poor in these challenging times."

A delegation of about 20 MPs from the Parliamentary Network, plus representatives from other parliamentary organizations including the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), attended the full day

Parliamentary Workshop organized by the World Bank and the IMF. The Workshop focused on themes identified by the Parliamentary Network to be of special interest to Parliamentarians. The morning sessions with the IMF focused on global economic developments and challenges; the impact of the global financial and economic crisis on international financial architecture and governance; the IMF's work in lower-income countries; and challenges to global cooperation. Afternoon sessions with the World Bank included presentations by the World Development Report 2012 team on gender, by the WDR 2013 Team on jobs and rethinking growth strategies and by the Doing Business Team and the Africa Finance and Private Sector Development Department on how to foster private sector Development and improve the business Environment in support of poverty reduction and economic growth.

For more information, visit Parliamentary Network at www.pnowb.org, IMF and Legislators at www.imf.org/external/np/legislators, World Bank and Legislators at www.worldbank.org/parliamentarians

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PARLIAMENTARIANS JOINING THE WORLD BANK/IMF ANNUAL MEETINGS

European Parliament (EP) Delegation, on September 24 - As part of a broader Washington program, a group of 7 MEPs, led by Sharon Bowles, the Chair of the EP Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, visited the World Bank on September 24. They met with Hans Timmer, Director of the Prospects Group (DEC), to discuss the world economy and with Indermit Gill, Chief Economist for European and Central Asia and Martin Raiser, Country Director for Belarus, Moldova and the Ukraine. Following an overview of the current world economic situation, MEPs turned their focus to Europe's own structural problems and on what short and long-term measures would be needed to reduce the EU's fragmentation and to improve its global competitiveness, a discussion also continued with Indermit Gill and Martin Raiser. For more information, please contact glaryea@worldbank.org

Bundestag Delegation, on September 21 - A group of German parliamentarians attending the Annual Meetings met with Vice President of the World Bank's Operations Policies and Country Services (OPCS), Joachim von Amsberg, IFC Manager Monika Weber-Fahr and Director of Strategy and Operations of SDN Hartwig Schaefer for an interactive discussion on current development issues and the Bank's work. The discussion covered topics such as the global

financial markets and their effect on the operational work of the WBG, the financial instruments of the WBG, the food crisis in East Africa and the Bank's results agenda. The German ED Ingrid Hoven and Development Minister Dirk Niebel also participated in the meeting. For more information, please contact rvenghaus@worldbank.org

PARLIAMENTARY ENGAGEMENT AT COUNTRY LEVEL

Philippines, Quezon City, on September 6 -The World Bank Sustainable Development Department shared insights on rural development through a technical briefing with the Committee on Rural Development



chaired by Representative Wilfrido Mark Enverga. Substantial impact on making growth more inclusive is expected from comprehensive rural development strategies as over 50% of the rural population in the Philippines is classified as poor. Policy options on agricultural diversification along a supply-chain approach, improving non-farm employment and incomes, and provision of safety nets to the severely marginalized were discussed with the legislators. Technical brief-

ings with legislative committees are organized by the House of Representatives Knowledge for Development Center. For more information please contact hgrageda@worldbank.org

Bangla Desh, August 7 to 10 - A Bangladesh Parliamentary delegation consisting of three chairs of Public Accounts Committee (PAC), Public Undertaking Committee (PUC) and Committee on Estimate (EC) and Secretariat staff visited the Indian Parliament (Lok Sabha) from August 07-10, 2011. The key purpose of the visit was to gain experience on the functioning of parliamentary oversight bodies. Promoting synergy within and beyond South Asia through exposure visits to advanced democracies and applying "lessons learnt" in country setting is supported by the on-going World Bank managed "Strengthening Parliamentary Oversight" (SPO) Project. With a view to determining the reform implication resulting from such visits, a dissemination workshop engaging all the members of three committees, Auditor General and selected government ministries is planned in December 2011.

Bangla Desh, August 28 to 30 - The World Bank Institute, in collaboration with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), facilitated the participation of a delegation from Bangladesh in the annual meeting of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees and Legislative Auditors (CCPAC/CCOLA) in Halifax, Nova Scotia, August 28-30. The delegation from Bangladesh, which consisted of the Chair of the PAC, a senior member



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of the PAC and a senior representative of the Controller and Auditor-General joined legislators and staff from federal, provincial and territorial PACs across Canada who were meeting simultaneously with the Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors to discuss matters of mutual interest relating to financial accountability. These annual CCPAC and CCOLA conferences also permitted the delegates to participate in a joint session to discuss subjects of mutual interest to elected officials and legislative auditors. For more information please contact ajohnston@worldbank.org

Netherlands, The Hague, on September 13 - Axel van Trotsenburg, World Bank Vice President for Concessional Finance and Global Partnerships, on September 13 met with members of the Foreign Policy Committee of the Dutch Parliament. Mr. van Trotsenburg gave an informal briefing on the implementation of the World Bank's fund for the poorest - IDA. Committee members were amongst others also interested in World Bank efforts to help address the humanitarian and food crisis in the Horn of Africa; and in the World Bank's engagement in North Africa following the Arab Spring. For more information about IDA, see www.worldbank.org/ida

Germany, Berlin, on September 19, 2011 - Members of the Parliamentary Committee for Economic Cooperation and Development (AwZ) participated in an event on results-based financing (RBF) organized by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation (BMZ), the German

Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and OECD in Berlin and had discussions with World Bank experts including Operations Policies and Country Services-OPCS Directors Paul Bermingham and Aysegul Akin-Karasapan. In particular, the discussions focused on whether and how RBF will lead to more results-orientation, what risks and shortcomings exist, which strategies should be pursued in the future and how these instruments can be implemented in development cooperation. Panelists included experts from BMZ, DFID, GAVI, the Rwandan Ministry of Finance and an MP from Mozambique. For more information, please contact rvenghaus@worldbank.org

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS

September 28 to October 19 - ARA-PAC Meeting, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

This executive Committee meeting will provide a forum to strengthen the Asia Region Association of Public Accounts Committees (ARAPAC) as a parliamentary network that promotes mutual support and provides a platform for the exchange of ideas, knowledge and experience among Asian PACs. For more information, please contact mbensky@worldbank.org.

October 3 to 11 - PAP 5th Ordinary Session in Midrand, South Africa.

Chief Economist for the Africa Region, Shanta Devarajan will make a presentation about recent de-

velopments of the World Bank in Africa to the PAP (Pan-African Parliament) plenary session on October 11, 2011.

November 21 to December 16, 2011-E-course on Parliaments and the Budget Process

The course will provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the role and responsibilities of parliaments and the budgetary process (the same course is offered in French for the 1st time as a pilot on **November 2-30, 2011**). For more information please contact Brooke Prater at parliamentarystrengthening@gmail.com or visit <http://www.parliamentarystrengthening.org>

WORLD BANK NEWS, PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES

Senior Management Appointments

The following changes in the World Bank Group's Senior Management became effective as of September 19th: **Inger Andersen** was named Vice President of the Bank's Middle East and North Africa Region (MENA). **Rachel Kyte** has become the new Vice President for Sustainable Development. **Caroline Anstey** became Managing Director for Operational Services, Policy & Systems and will have the oversight of the Bank's modernization agenda, including the efforts to continue to make the Bank an ever more open, results-based and effective organization.



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World Bank President Calls for a World “Beyond Aid”

In a speech at George Washington University on September 14, entitled “Beyond Aid”, President Zoellick said the world needs to recognize new realities, and move to a global system that integrates developed and developing countries, innovation, private investment, and the 50 percent of the world’s population too often kept behind -- women. You can read the full speech at <http://go.worldbank.org/J0VM93C6Z0>

Gender Equality Campaign

Share your views on the campaign website at <http://thinkequal.worldbank.org>. The site provides a space for the public to crowd source their views on gender. The call to action—Tell us what equal means to you—includes a social poll soliciting and visualizing views on a set of key gender questions. The second phase of the online campaign will focus on photos that depict people’s views and experiences on gender equality. The goal is to share the findings with key decision makers on gender-related issues.

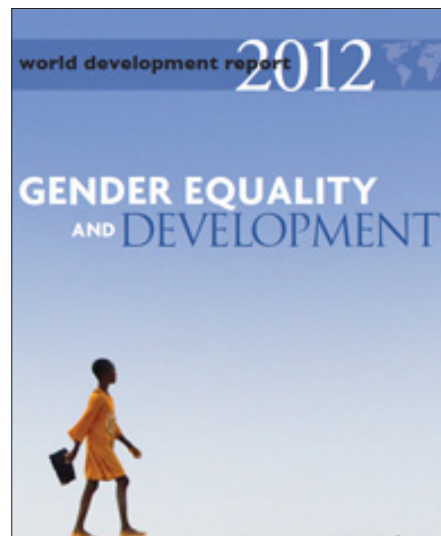
Boosted Support to the Horn of Africa

On September 24, the World Bank announced it will increase its support to countries in the Horn of Africa to \$1.88 billion (from the more than \$500 million it initially announced in July). These countries are facing one of the worst droughts

in more than half a century, causing mounting malnutrition, food insecurity, and displacement of people. This announcement was made as the development community gathered under the auspices of the United Nations in an attempt to step up support for affected countries. More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/F9G-B6OLZIO>

PUBLICATIONS

World Development Report 2012



Released on September 18, the World Development Report 2012: Gender Equality and Development focuses on the evolution of gender equality across the world in the context of the development process. The report considers gender equality as a core development goal in itself, and argues that gender equality matters for the pace of development. Improvements in gender equality can

generate gains in economic efficiency and improvements in other development outcomes. Two related gender resources –the e-Atlas of Gender and the Little Data Book on Gender- were also launched in September. For more information, visit worldbank.org/wdr2012

Women, Business and the Law 2012

A new report from the World Bank and IFC released on September 26, finds that women still face legal and regulatory hurdles to fully participating in the economy. Women, Business and the Law 2012: Removing Barriers to Economic Inclusion finds that while 36 economies reduced legal differences between men and women, 103 out of 141 economies studied still impose legal differences on the basis of gender in at least one of the report’s key indicators. More information at <http://wbl.worldbank.org>

Africa Development Indicators (ADI) 2011 now online

The database comprises a time series of data covering 1960-2009 of over 1,700 indicators on 53 countries in Africa. The ADI 2011 publication contains the most recent data on macroeconomic and social conditions as well as technical boxes on key issues in Africa. Along with this release are two Little Databooks - one is on general indicators and the other on Gender in Africa. The data are available at <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/africa-development-indicators>