



World Bank Update

PARLIAMENTARY NEWSLETTER

September 2009



NEW STRATEGY FOR WORLD BANK INSTITUTE

Since October 2008, the World Bank Institute (WBI) has been engaged in a process of strategic renewal. An extensive consultation process, involving exchanges with internal and external partners, clients, informed observers, and World Bank staff, has produced a strategic plan that identifies an emerging role for WBI as anchor for the growing number of capacity-development initiatives. Effective July 1, 2009, WBI has been operating along four identified key business lines - structured learning, knowledge exchange, innovation platform, and leadership & coalition building. Within these business lines WBI will focus on seven strategic priorities (Fragile & Post-Conflict States; Governance & Innovation; Growth and Crisis; Climate Change; Public-Private Partnerships; Urban; and Health Systems) and will work mainly with non-traditional WBG stakeholders, including parliaments.



TABLE OF CONTENT

- Feature Stories	Page 1
- Upcoming activities for Parliamentarians	Page 2
- Publications	Page 3
- World Bank News, Programs & Facilities	Page 4

Capacity development for legislatures will continue to be undertaken by WBI's Parliamentary Oversight Program, which forms part of the Governance pillar. The Parliamentary Oversight Program aims to enhance parliaments' capacity to effectively fulfill their oversight role, especially regarding government policy implementation and the allocation and

use of public funds along the budget cycle. Besides this stand-alone oversight program, the parliamentary team works hand-in-hand with WBI's newly emerged sector-specific programs to help build the capacity of parliaments to engage on issues such as Access to Information, Extractive Industries, Public Procurement, Climate Change and strengthening the capacity of parliaments in conflict-affected countries. WBI's renewal process and strategic plan reinforces WBI's commitment to working with parliaments around the globe to strengthen their capacity to act as positive actors in the development process.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS - MDGs

In Italy, the World Bank's special Representative for Europe Cyril Muller gave an informal audition before the MDG Commission (Foreign Affairs Commission) of the Chamber of Deputies. He focused on the ongoing crisis and the WBG response to it, with a view to sustaining the efforts to achieve the MDGs. This intervention and the World Bank's Global Development Report were used as input for the final report of a one-day seminar with prominent speakers on the status of the MDG agenda. The final report was presented to the Italian Presidency of the G8 prior to the G8 summit in l'Aquila, Italy.

World Bank Update

SELECTION OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS

Consultations on Country Assistance Strategies (CAS)



The World Bank regularly engages parliamentarians and other constituencies during consultations on the Country Assistance Strategy. In September, Country Assistance Strategies for which consultations with Parliamentarians were held will be sent to the Board for the following countries: Burkina Faso (CAS), Jamaica (CAS). Consultations with parliamentarians have just been held in Kenya, and are planned in Lebanon (CAS) once the new Cabinet is formed. Other CAS consultations will be held in the coming months: Tajikistan (CAS), Uganda (CAS). Bank offices in these countries plan to involve parliamentarians.

Enf of September Workshop on the Role of Parliamentary Com- mittees in Effective Oversight

This Workshop in Dhaka, Bangladesh will cover the role of Parliamentary Committees in Effective Oversight through an examination of procedural and administrative support; Committees and the law making process; government accountability and Parliamentary Committees; and

transparency, participation and outreach.

Starting September 28 E-learning course on corruption

The E-learning course on the role of parliaments in curbing corruption 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. It looks at the impact of corruption on social, economic and environmental norms. The course has been developed by the World Bank Institute (WBI) and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and more information can be found on www.parliamentarystrengthening.org

Until 30 September Development Marketplace for Latin America

The 2010 Latin America and Caribbean Development Marketplace is titled "Youth Developing Opportunity: Entrepreneurship, Innovation, Sustainability." This small grants competition, sponsored by the Bank and its partners, provides funds for innovative, grassroots development projects. The deadline for submission is September 30. More information at <http://www.lac-developmentmarketplace.org/>

September 30 – October 1 Workshop on Parliamentary Committees

As part of the Commonwealth Small Countries Conference,

WBI in partnership with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, is delivering a workshop on parliamentary committees in small country parliaments, with a specific emphasis on the operation of Public Accounts Committees. The workshop is held in Arusha, Tanzania.

October 6-7 WB/IMF Annual Meetings in Turkey

MPs interested in attending the WB/IMF Annual Meetings can try to become part of their country's delegation. If they would like to attend the CSO program and program of seminars only, they can request accreditation through the joint secretariat before September 21. PNoWB Board members are likely to be present in Istanbul. For more information please contact Nayé Bathily at nbathily@worldbank.org. General information on the annual meetings can be found at <http://www.imf.org/external/am/2009/index.htm>

October Field visit to Mongolia

The Parliamentary Relations Team (EXTEU) is working closely with the Mongolia Country Office and the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB) on preparing a Parliamentary Field visit to Mongolia, due to take place in the week of October 26. The visit will provide visiting MPs with a chance to see how the World Bank works to support 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



World Bank Update

natural resources. A second objective of the visit is to increase the engagement with the Parliament (Great Hural) of Mongolia, and to encourage its international relationships.

October LAC Regional seminar on Legislative Oversight of the Budget and Anti-Corruption Initiatives (tbc)

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.

October-November E-learning course on parliament and the media

The Role of Parliaments in Promoting an Information Rich Society focuses on parliaments and Access To Information (ATI) and helps parliaments to facilitate the flow of information between parliament and the community via the media. The course has been developed by the World Bank Institute (WBI) and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and more information can be found on www.parliamentarystrengthening.org

PUBLICATIONS

Bank Increases Gender Support and Lending

A new World Bank report, Implementing the Bank's Gender

Mainstreaming Strategy: FY08 Annual Monitoring Report, reveals that gender issues informed the design of



45 percent of all lending operations in fiscal year 2008, compared to 35 percent in fiscal 2006. The growth comes on the heels of the Bank's launch of a four-year, \$60 million Gender Action Plan, which began implementation in January 2007 to improve gender coverage in the economic arena. The report says the Gender Action Plan is beginning to show results both in terms of reaching women on the ground and influencing Bank operations more widely.

More information at <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTGENDER/Resources/FY08MonitoringReport.pdf>

World Development Indicators 2009 CD-ROM

Looking for accurate, up-to-date data on development issues? World Development Indicators is the Bank's premier annual compilation of data about development. This indispensable statistical reference al-

lows you to consult over 900 indicators for some 150 economies and 14 country groups in more than 80 tables. It provides a current overview of the most recent data available, as well as important regional data and income group analysis in six thematic sections: World View, People, Environment, Economy, States and Markets, and Global Links.

More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/CSXGQJ7Q00>

Over 70% of Countries Are Missing Out on Foreign Investment Projects

A new Bank Group report finds that over 70 percent of government investment promotion intermediaries miss out on investment and job-creating opportunities by failing to provide accurate and timely information to potential investors. The Global Investment Promotion Benchmarking 2009, jointly produced by IFC, MIGA, and the World Bank, examines the ability of 181 countries to influence foreign investors' site-selection process.

More information at www.fias.net/ifcext/fias.nsf/Content/GIPB2009

Conditional Cash Transfers: Reducing Present and Future Poverty

Demand for well designed safety net and cash transfer programs to assist poor families is growing across the world, as 2009 has developed into a year of tough economic chal-



World Bank Update

lenges. The report *Conditional Cash Transfers: Reducing Present and Future Poverty*, evaluates programs that offer qualifying families cash in exchange for commitments such as taking babies to health clinics regularly or keeping children in school. It finds that these programs—where the responsibility for breaking out of poverty is shared by the state and poor households—can reduce poverty both in the short and long term, particularly when supported by better public services.

More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/UQEJK2J5E0>

Global Development Finance 2009

The Bank's annual report on the external financing of developing countries provides monitoring and analysis of development finance, identifying key emerging trends and policy challenges in international financial flows that are likely to affect the growth prospects of developing countries. The report is an indispensable resource for the entire development community.

More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/UMEH5W8B90>

WORLD BANK NEWS,
PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES

Century of African Growth and Opportunity Possible.

Bank Group President Robert Zoellick ended a three-nation

African tour on August 14 by affirming that, despite the setbacks of the financial crisis, this could be a century of African opportunity and growth. President Zoellick visited the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda to encourage investor and donor support to help the world's poorest continent cope with the global economic crisis.

New Report Offers Solutions to Water and Sanitation for Urban Poor



A new report released August 18 by the Bank's Water and Sanitation Program identifies barriers to service delivery for poor people living in urban areas and recommends practical solutions to overcome them. The report, *Guidance Notes on Services for the Urban Poor: A Practical Guide for Improving Water and Sanitation*

Services, recommends some simple solutions that can bring sustainable water and sanitation services to the hundreds of millions currently living without them.

Remittance Flows to Developing Countries to Decline in 2009

Remittance flows to developing countries are expected to be \$304 billion in 2009, down from an estimated \$328 billion in 2008, said the Bank, releasing a new migration and remittances brief to coincide with an International Diaspora and Development Conference that ran July 13-14. The predicted a 7.3% decline in remittances this year is far smaller than that for private flows to developing countries.

More information at www.worldbank.org/prospects/migrationandremittances

Bank Support to Crisis-Hit Countries at Record High

The World Bank committed US\$58.8 billion in fiscal year 2009 to help countries struggling amid the global economic crisis, a 54 percent increase over the previous fiscal year and a record high for the global development institution. In 2009 financial year, the Bank supported 767 projects to promote economic growth, fight poverty, and assist private businesses, including US\$20.7 billion in infrastructure financing, a critical sector to provide the foundation for rapid recovery from the crisis and job creation.